

17 June 2021

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN PILOTING OF ANTIGEN RAPID TESTS (ART) AT WORKSITES AND ATTEND ONBOARDING WEBINARS

With reference to BCA's circular on the piloting of Antigen Rapid Tests (ART) at worksites for the construction sector dated 31 May 2021, more than 30 construction projects have since onboarded the pilot programme and are currently administering ART at their worksites.

2. ART serves as an additional safeguard to screen personnel who are not residing in dormitories (i.e. those residing in HDB and private residential properties) when they enter the worksites. This is on top of the current Rostered Routine Testing (RRT) requirement for all construction workers.

Piloting of ART at Worksites

3. BCA is now extending the invitation to all main contractors of ongoing construction projects, ready-mixed companies and DfMA suppliers to participate in the pilot programme and implement ART at their sites. To help more construction companies kickstart the implementation of ART at worksites, the training course for ART supervisors is being **offered at a subsidised rate for a limited period**, and ART self-test kits **will be provided at no cost to worksites** during the pilot stage. Details on how to participate are given below:

a. **Training of ART Supervisors**

The "ART Swabbing and Supervision for Built Environment" training course was developed to support the effective implementation of ART testing regime at worksites under the supervision of competent ART supervisors. Companies can register assigned ART supervisors with their project reference for training conducted by BCA Academy. ART Supervisors must be competently trained before they can implement ART at worksites. To register, please visit <https://go.gov.sg/bcaa-art-training>.

b. Preparing the site layout plan

Before implementing ART at the worksite, companies should plan the site layout to set up ART stations at the site to conform to Safe Management Measures and Infection Prevention and Control Standards. The layout plan must be retained on site. Please refer to the ART Playbook for more info on ART site layout plan preparation: <https://go.gov.sg/bca-mom-art-playbook>.

c. Ordering of ART self-test kits to participate in ART pilot

Companies can register their interest to pilot ART at their worksites and order the free ART kits through the registration form <https://go.gov.sg/bca-art-apply>. The registration form will require the following information:

- Consent from developers to implement the ART at the specific worksite
- Estimated number of personnel who are participating in the ART self-test at the worksite (personnel who are not residing in dormitories i.e. those residing in HDB and private residential properties)
- Target commencement date to start ART operation at the worksite

4. Companies will receive a follow-up email with information on the delivery of ART self-test kits, once the application is processed. The waiting time may take up to one to two weeks if there is a high demand.

5. For updates and information on ART for the sector, please refer to: <https://go.gov.sg/bca-art>.

Webinar on Implementation of ART at Worksites for Construction Companies

6. BCA is conducting a series of webinars to share details of the onboarding process and feature construction companies that have implemented ART at their worksites. The webinars will be conducted in Mandarin and English on 21 June 3.30pm and 24 June 2.30pm respectively.

7. To register for the webinar, please refer to: <https://go.gov.sg/bca-art-webinar>

Working Together to Implement Enhanced Measures and Ensure Continuity of Works

8. With ART as an additional proactive risk-mitigating measure to prevent COVID-positive personnel from entering construction worksites, unnecessary stop-work orders or safety time-outs can be avoided. In the event that further tightening measures are required, worksites that have implemented ART early will be much better positioned to continue works with minimal disruptions.

9. Let us remain vigilant and agile in adapting and implementing enhanced safe management measures and controls to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the construction workforce. Companies are also reminded to urge their employees and workers to take up vaccination when offered to them and ensure their workers attend RRT as scheduled. BCA will continue to work closely with the sector to avoid disruptions to the construction projects and works, by keeping safe management measures robust, and enhancing them when required.

Yours faithfully

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