

Diagnostic COVID-19 Testing FAQs

Q: What testing is currently available to diagnose active COVID-19 infection?

A: There are two types of COVID-19 tests available – a traditional PCR test that is sent to a lab and a Rapid Antigen Test that is run on site. Each test is performed by taking a swab from the nose to test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 (the virus causing COVID-19).

Q: How long does it take to get results and how accurate are they?

A: PCR Test: It takes approximately 3-5 days for a result to be returned from our lab and has a high degree of accuracy both for positives and negatives.

Rapid Antigen Test: The advantage of this test is the ability to get a result while you wait, usually within 15 minutes. This test has a high accuracy rate for positive test results, but approximately an 85% accuracy rate for negative results.

Q: What does a positive test result mean?

A: A positive test for COVID-19 indicates active infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Q: What does a negative test result mean?

A: A negative test for COVID-19 means an individual was probably not infected at the time their sample was collected. However, that does not mean they will not get sick in the future. False negatives can also be possible, particularly with antigen testing.

Q: If I choose a Rapid Antigen Test and my result is negative, what should I do?

A: If you are suffering from symptoms or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you will need to have a PCR test to verify your negative test result. The PCR test takes approximately 3-5 days for a result to be returned from our lab. You will be notified once your test result is received.

Q: If I choose a Rapid Antigen Test and my result is positive, what should I do?

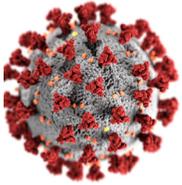
A: Follow CDC guidelines, which are printed on the back of this sheet. You will need to self-isolate and notify your primary care provider to receive any additional instructions.

Q: What is the price difference between the PCR and Rapid Antigen Tests?

A: PCR Test: The Government has established certain criteria that, if met, result in the test being at no charge. An attending physician must feel that you need to have testing to make the diagnosis of COVID-19 infection. If you are asymptomatic and have not had exposure to a person with COVID-19 then the attending physician may not deem it necessary for you to be tested. If you do not meet the criteria but want to have the test anyway, our charge will be \$128.00.

Rapid Antigen Test: Your cost for the Rapid Antigen test is \$50.00. It is currently not covered by some insurance carriers. We will file your insurance as a convenience, and you will be refunded any payment received from your insurance carrier.

What you should know about COVID-19 to protect yourself and others



Know about COVID-19

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an illness caused by a virus that can spread from person to person.
- The virus that causes COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that has spread throughout the world.
- COVID-19 symptoms can range from mild (or no symptoms) to severe illness.



Know how COVID-19 is spread

- You can become infected by coming into close contact (about 6 feet or two arm lengths) with a person who has COVID-19. COVID-19 is primarily spread from person to person.
- You can become infected from respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- You may also be able to get it by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then by touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.



Protect yourself and others from COVID-19

- There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to protect yourself is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Stay home as much as possible and avoid close contact with others.
- Wear a cloth face covering that covers your nose and mouth in public settings.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



Practice social distancing

- Buy groceries and medicine, go to the doctor, and complete banking activities online when possible.
- If you must go in person, stay at least 6 feet away from others and disinfect items you must touch.
- Get deliveries and takeout, and limit in-person contact as much as possible.



Prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick

- Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Avoid public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.
- Separate yourself from other people and pets in your home.
- There is no specific treatment for COVID-19, but you can seek medical care to help relieve your symptoms.
- If you need medical attention, call ahead.



Know your risk for severe illness

- Everyone is at risk of getting COVID-19.
- Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more severe illness.

