



COVID-19

We have the tools to **Fight Omicron**



Vaccines & Booster





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COVID-19 Testing: What You Need to Know

Updated Dec. 29, 2021

CDC has updated isolation and quarantine recommendations for the public. These recommendations do not supersede state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations. Read CDC's media statement.

Testing is very important to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Types of COVID-19 Tests

COVID-19 tests can detect either **SARS-CoV-2**, the virus that causes COVID-19, or **antibodies** that your body makes after getting COVID-19 or after getting vaccinated.

Tests for SARS-CoV-2 tell you if you have an infection at the time of the test. This type of test is called a "viral" test because it looks for viral infection. Antigen or Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAATs) are viral tests.

Tests for antibodies may tell you if you have had a past infection with the virus that causes COVID-19. Your body creates antibodies after getting infected with SARS-CoV-2 or after getting vaccinated against COVID-19. These tests are called "antibody" or "serology" tests.

Viral Tests

A viral test tells you if you are infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. There are two types of viral tests: rapid tests and laboratory tests. Viral tests use samples that come from your nose or mouth. Rapid tests can be performed in minutes and can include antigen and some NAATs. Laboratory tests can take days to complete and include RT-PCR and other types of NAATs. Some test results may need confirmatory testing.

Self-tests are rapid tests that can be taken at home or anywhere, are easy to use, and produce rapid results. COVID-19 self-tests are one of many risk-reduction measures, along with vaccination, masking, and physical distancing, that protect you and others by reducing the chances of spreading COVID-19.

Antibody Tests

An antibody test (also known as a serology test) can detect antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 in your blood. **Antibodies** are proteins that your immune system makes to help fight infection and protect you from getting sick in the future.

Antibody tests should not be used to diagnose a current infection, but may indicate if you had a past infection. Antibody tests help scientists learn about how human immune systems defend against the virus, as well as learn about population-level protection.

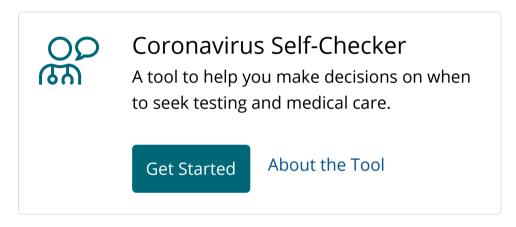
Antibody testing is not currently recommended to determine:

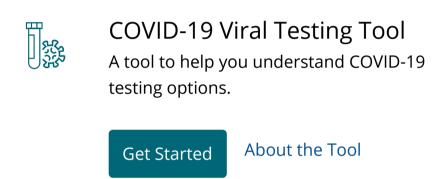
- If you have a current infection.
- If you have immunity to SARS-CoV-2 following COVID-19 vaccination.
- Whether you need to get vaccinated if you are not fully vaccinated.
- Whether you need to quarantine after a known or suspected exposure to COVID-19.

You should always discuss your test results with your healthcare provider.

Testing Tools

These chatbots ask a series of questions, and provide recommended actions and resources based on your responses.





Video and Print Resources

Antibody Test for COVID-19

Viral Test for COVID-19

GOOD THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT A COVID-19 TEST | COVID-19 |

FREE

COVID-19 tests are <u>available at</u> no cost nationwide at health centers and select pharmacies.





EFFECTIVE

COVID-19 tests are effective at detecting a COVID-19 infection.

QUICK

Current rapid COVID-19 tests provide results in 15 minutes.





www.cdc.gov/covidtesting

Good Things to Know About A COVID-19 Test

[PDF - 55KB, 1 Page]

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN GETTING TESTED

COVID-19

Most COVID-19 tests use swabs to gather samples. You can get your test results as quickly as 15 minutes or up to a few days, depending on the type of test.





Some testing locations may be crowded. While you are waiting to get your test and results, wear a mask and stay at least 6 feet apart from others.

Your Results

If you test NEGATIVE for COVID-19, the virus was not detected.

- You are likely not infected.
- For more information about the types of COVID-19 tests and why you might have tested negative, go to www.cdc.gov/covidtesting.
- If you test POSITIVE take <u>steps to protect others</u> regardless of your COVID-19 vaccination status.
- Isolate from others for at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared.
- Avoid contact with other members of your household and pets.



www.cdc.gov/covidtesting

What to Expect When Getting Tested

PDF - 183 KB, 1 page]

DO YOUR PART: GET TESTED | COVID-19 |

You have an important role to play in stopping this pandemic.





If you have symptoms, especially if you've been around someone with COVID-19, you should get tested as soon as possible.





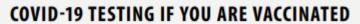
Encourage your friends and family to get tested if they have symptoms.



www.cdc.gov/covidtesting

Do Your Part: Get Tested

[PDF - 426 KB, 1 Page]



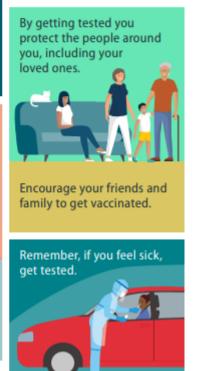
| COVID-19 |

You did your part by getting vaccinated, but you still have an important role to play in stopping this pandemic.



So, if you have symptoms, especially if you've been around someone with COVID-19, you should get tested.





www.cdc.gov/covidtesting

COVID-19 Testing If You Are Vaccinated

[PDF - 1 page, 129 KB]

3 Key Steps to Take While Waiting for Your COVID-19 Test Result

To protect yourself and others regardless of your vaccination status, take these 3 key steps NOW while waiting for your test results:

Stay home and monitor your health.

Stay home and monitor your health to help protect your friends, family, and others from possibly getting COVID-19 from you.

Stay home and away from others:

· If possible, stay away from others, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19, such as older adults and people with other medical conditions.



- If you have been in contact with someone with COVID-19, stay home and away from others for 14 days after your last contact with that person. Follow the recommendations of your local public health department if you need to guarantine.
- If you have a fever, cough or other symptoms of COVID-19, stay home and away from others (except to get medical care).

Monitor your health:

· Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19. Remember, symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to COVID-19 and can include:



- Fever or chills
- Cough Shortness of breath or Sore throat
- difficulty breathing
- Tiredness
- Headache
- smell
- Congestion or runny

New loss of taste or

- - Diamhea

Think about the people you have recently been around.

If you are diagnosed with COVID-19, a public health worker may call you to check on your health, discuss who you have been around, and ask where you spent time while you may have been able to spread COVID-19 to others. While you wait for your COVID-19 test result, think about everyone you have been around recently. This will be important information to give health workers if your test is positive.

Complete the information on the back of this page to help you remember everyone you have been around.

Answer the phone call from the health department.

If a public health worker calls you, answer the call to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in your community.



- · Discussions with health department staff are confidential. This means that your personal and medical information will be kept private and only shared with those who may need to know,
- . Your name will not be shared with those you came in contact with. The health department will only notify people you were in close contact with (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) that they might have been exposed to COVID-19.



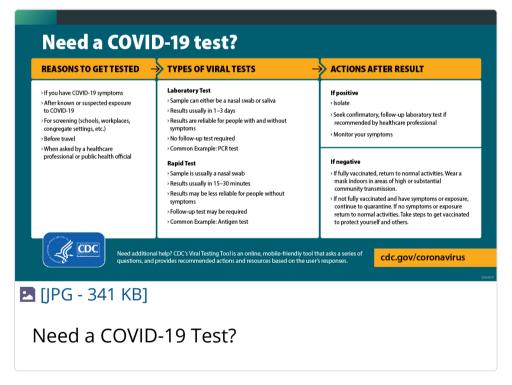
cdc.gov/coronavirus

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3 Key Steps to Take While Waiting for Your COVID-19 Test Results

[PDF - 2 Pages, 230 KB]





Related Pages

- > Test for Current Infection
- > Test for Past Infection