Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19)

WEAR A MASK. PROTECT OTHERS.

COVID-19 Testing Overview

Updated Oct. 21, 2020   Print

Find out who should get tested. Protect yourself and others. Wear a mask, wash hands often, stay 6 ft from others.

Two kinds of tests are available for COVID-19: viral tests and antibody tests.

- A viral test tells you if you have a current infection.
- An antibody test might tell you if you had a past infection.

Coronavirus Self-Checker
Click Here to Begin

Considerations for who should get tested

- People who have symptoms of COVID-19.
- People who have had close contact (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more) with someone with confirmed COVID-19.
- People who have been asked or referred to get testing by their healthcare provider, local ⧉ or state health department.

Not everyone needs to be tested. If you do get tested, you should self-quarantine/isolate at home pending test results and follow the advice of your health care provider or a public health professional.

How to get tested for current COVID–19 infection

- You can visit your state or local ⧉ health department's website to look for the latest

local information on testing.

- If you have symptoms of COVID-19 and want to get tested, call your healthcare provider first.
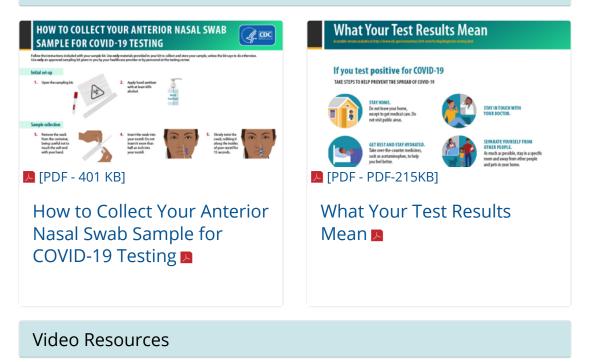
Results

- **If you test positive**, know what protective steps to take to prevent others from getting sick.

- **If you test negative**, you probably were not infected at the time your sample was collected. The test result only means that you did not have COVID-19 at the time of testing. Continue to take steps to protect yourself.

Find out what steps you can take to prevent the spread of COVID-19

Print Resources

[PDF - 401 KB]

How to Collect Your Anterior Nasal Swab Sample for COVID-19 Testing

[PDF - PDF-215KB]

What Your Test Results Mean

Video Resources

Last Updated Oct. 21, 2020

Content source: National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), Division of Viral Diseases