EVERYTHING YOU'VE WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT
COVID-19 TESTING

Where can I go to get a COVID-19 test?

The best way to get a COVID-19 test is to contact your healthcare provider who can direct you to a testing location near you. You can also visit your state or local healthcare department's website to find the latest information on testing locations.

What types of tests are available?

At this time there are **3 types of tests available.** Two diagnostic tests (molecular and antigen) and one antibody test

1 **MOLECULAR TESTS (Diagnostic)**, also known as PCR, diagnostic test, viral test, nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), RT-PCR test, LAMP test

2 **ANTIGEN TESTS (Diagnostic)**, also known as Rapid Diagnostic Test

3 **ANTIBODY TESTS**, also known as serological test, serology, nucleic acid blood test, serology test

What is the difference between diagnostic test and antibody test?

Diagnostic tests are distinctly different from antibody tests, also known as serology tests. Viral diagnostic tests tell you if you have a current infection. On the other hand, antibody tests do not diagnose an active coronavirus infection, rather they show if you have been infected with coronavirus in the past. It can take 1-3 weeks after infection for your body to make antibodies.

What is the difference between molecular and antigen-based tests?

Both tests are viral diagnostics and can be used to diagnose an active infection. While antigen tests usually provide results faster than molecular tests, they have a higher chance of missing an active infection. Currently, molecular tests are more commonly used.

Will getting tested hurt?

Most testing modalities do not hurt. Some people experience mild momentary discomfort from one type of molecular test (nasopharyngeal).

Will the test cost me money?

Medicare, Medicaid, and most insurance agencies will waive the cost of testing. Additionally, there may be free testing set up by your state or local public health department. If you have concerns about testing costs be sure to check with your provider first.

How long after I take the test will I receive results?

Result times vary based on the testing location, however, most results become available within 48 hours of the test.

If the results are negative, why would I be asked to repeat the test? Who is likely to have to repeat the test?

Various problems can interfere with the reliability of a test, including problems with the sample, reagent, or at the lab. If clinicians strongly suspect COVID-19, a second test to confirm the finding of the initial test helps to inform the clinical diagnosis. Repeat tests are most likely when the patient has COVID-19 symptoms and/or there are other reasons to question the accuracy of the initial test.

How much does sensitivity matter when taking a test?

In general, molecular/PCR tests are highly reliable, and their results should be treated as accurate unless there are specific, clear concerns about accuracy (eg, symptoms of COVID; concerns about sample/test process).

Antigen tests are typically accurate for positive results; negative results may need to be confirmed with a second test, usually molecular.

#TaketheTest

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