



COVID-19 TESTING: IMPORTANT MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE COVID-19 TEST. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

Considerations for who should be tested for COVID-19:

- 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 taken part in activities that put them at higher risk for COVID-19 because they cannot socially distance as needed, such as travel, attending large social or mass gatherings, or being in crowded indoor settings.
- 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.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19? Many patients with confirmed COVID-19 have developed fever and/or symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing). The current information available to characterize the spectrum of clinical illness associated with COVID-19 suggests that symptoms include cough, shortness of breath or dyspnea, fever, chills, myalgias, headache, sore throat or new loss of taste or smell. Based on what is known about the virus that causes COVID-19, signs and symptoms may appear any time from 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus. Based on preliminary data, the median incubation period is approximately 5 days, but may range 2-14 days.

What types of tests are available? 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.

Collecting Covid-19 viral test specimen can be completed by using one or more of the following procedures:

- Nasal Swab
- Rapid Test Nasal Swab
- Throat Swab

What does it mean if the specimen tests POSITIVE for the virus that causes COVID-19? A positive test result for COVID-19 indicates that RNA from SARS-CoV-2 was detected, and the patient is infected with the virus and presumed to be contagious. Patient management should follow current CDC guidelines.

COVID-19 test were designed to minimize the likelihood of false positive test results. However, in the event of a false positive result, risks to patients could include the following: a recommendation for isolation of the patient, monitoring of household or other close contacts for symptoms, patient isolation that might limit contact with family or friends and may increase contact with other potentially COVID-19 patients, limits in the ability to work, the delayed diagnosis and treatment for the true infection causing the symptoms, unnecessary prescription of a treatment or therapy, or other unintended adverse effects.

What does it mean if the specimen tests NEGATIVE for the virus that causes COVID-19? A negative test result for this test means that SARS-CoV-2 RNA was not present in the specimen above the limit of detection. However, a negative result does not exclude the possibility of COVID-19.

When diagnostic testing is negative, the possibility of a false negative result should be considered in the context of a patient's recent exposures and the presence of clinical signs and symptoms consistent with COVID-19. If COVID 19 is still suspected based on exposure history together with other clinical findings, retesting with an alternative method or at a later date may be considered.

Understanding Your 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.

We Are Required Disclose Medical Information About Your COVID-19 Results

All laboratories and healthcare providers in patient care settings performing COVID-19 testing must follow the standard testing and reporting guidelines according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. **Sources:** www.cdc.gov; Abbott - TB000039 Rev. 5