

COVID-19

What are the tests and what do they do?

There are several tests for the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, and they each have a different application.



RT-PCR

Also known as a diagnostic test, viral test, molecular test, nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), or LAMP test. This test is the gold standard for COVID-19 diagnoses. It diagnoses active coronavirus infection even in people with no symptoms, but it can take 24-48 hours or longer to get a result because it must be sent to a lab for processing.



ANTIGEN

Rapid antigen tests are less complex than most molecular tests and provide results in 30 minutes or less. They are most effective for people who are showing symptoms. Your healthcare provider may order a PCR test if your antigen test shows a negative result, but you have symptoms of COVID-19.



ANTIBODY

Serological test, serology, blood test, serology test. This test shows if you've been infected by coronavirus in the past. This test will not indicate a current infection with the virus that causes COVID-19.



Need to get tested for COVID-19?

Find a location near you:

<https://get-tested-covid19.org/>

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