



# COVID-19 Test Types

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	FOR DIAGNOSING ACTIVE INFECTION		NOT FOR DIAGNOSIS
	Molecular Test	Antigen Test	Antibody Test
<b>Also known as:</b>	Diagnostic test, viral test, molecular test, nucleic acid amplification tests (NAAT), PT-PCR tests	Rapid diagnostic test	Serological test, serology, blood test, serology test
<b>How the sample is taken:</b>	Nasal or throat swab (most tests) Saliva (a few tests)	Nasal or throat swab (for use in symptomatic individuals only)	Finger stick or blood draw
<b>How long it takes to get results:</b>	Same day (some locations) or up to a week, depending on the laboratory	One hour or less	Same day (many locations) or 1–3 days
<b>Is another test needed?</b>	This test is typically highly accurate and usually does not need to be repeated.	Positive results are usually highly accurate, but negative results may need to be confirmed with a molecular test.	Sometimes a second antibody test is needed for accurate results.
<b>What it shows:</b>	Active coronavirus infection	Active coronavirus infection	Whether you have been infected by coronavirus in the past and developed antibodies.
<b>What it can do:</b>	Diagnose active coronavirus infection at the time of the test or shows that you do not have COVID-19.	Diagnose active coronavirus infection at the time of the test or show that you do not have COVID-19. Your health care provider may order a molecular test if your antigen test shows a negative result, but you have symptoms of COVID-19.	Show if you have had COVID-19 or were infected with coronavirus in the past