COVID-19 Testing

Florida Department of Health • FloridaHealthCOVID19.gov

Who should be tested? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has guidance on who should be tested. Use the camera app on your phone and scan the code above or search: CDC COVID 19.

Testing in your area:

- If you have symptoms, call your health care provider first.
- Call your county health department about local testing or visit FloridaHealthCOVID19.gov.

Viral testing: Uses respiratory samples—such as a swab from the inside of your nose—to find out if you have COVID-19.

Antibody testing: A blood test that can tell you if you've had COVID-19. Antibodies usually develop 1–3 weeks after symptoms start.

There a few things we don't know about COVID-19 antibodies:

- We don't know if having them can protect you from getting COVID-19 again.
- We don't know how long the protection lasts.

What we do know:

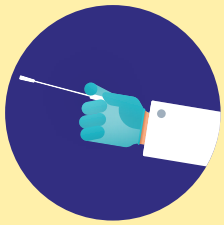
- If you test positive and you haven't had symptoms—you've had an asymptomatic infection.
- If you test negative—you probably haven't had COVID-19, but you could have it now or you could get sick if you've recently been exposed.
- Some people may take longer to develop antibodies, and others may never develop antibodies.

Know the symptoms: Cough and shortness of breath are most common. Other symptoms are fever, chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.

Whether your test is positive or negative, protect yourself and others:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If you don't have soap and water, use a 60% or more alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Clean "high-touch" surfaces like counters, remote controls and door knobs often.
- Cough and sneeze into your bent elbow or a tissue.
- Practice social distancing: wear a cloth face covering over your mouth and nose, and keep at least 6 feet between you and other people.

IF YOU NEED URGENT MEDICAL ATTENTION, CALL 911.



STEPS *to* RESULTS

1

If you have symptoms, and thinking about testing, call your health care provider first.

2

If it's determined that testing is a good idea, your health care provider will talk to you about testing options.

3

Immediately after your sample is taken, find out how and when you should expect your result.

4

Your sample will be sent to a laboratory for testing.

5

If your viral test is positive, call your health care provider for next steps.

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