

# Need a COVID-19 test?

## REASONS TO GET TESTED

- › If you have COVID-19 symptoms
- › At least 5 days after known or suspected exposure to COVID-19
- › For screening (schools, workplaces, congregate settings, etc.)
- › Before and after travel
- › When asked by a healthcare professional or public health official

## TYPES OF VIRAL TESTS

### Laboratory Test

- › Sample can either be a nasal swab or saliva
- › Results usually in 1–3 days
- › Results are reliable for people with and without symptoms
- › No follow-up test required
- › Common Example: PCR test

### Rapid Test

- › Sample is usually a nasal swab
- › Results usually in 15–30 minutes
- › Results may be less reliable for people without symptoms
- › Follow-up test may be required
- › Common Example: Antigen test

## ACTIONS AFTER RESULT

### If positive

- › Isolate (at least 5 days). Learn more about [isolation timelines and precautions](#).
- › Seek a confirmatory, follow-up laboratory test if recommended by healthcare professional
- › Monitor your symptoms

### If negative

- › If [up to date on vaccines](#): return to normal activities. Wear a mask indoors in areas of high or substantial community transmission.
- › If not up to date on vaccines and have symptoms or exposure, continue to [quarantine](#) for at least 5 days.
- › If not up to date on vaccines and no symptoms or exposure: return to normal activities. Take steps to get up to date on vaccines to protect yourself and others.



Need additional help? CDC's Viral Testing Tool is an online, mobile-friendly tool that asks a series of questions, and provides recommended actions and resources based on the user's responses.

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)