

# About COVID-19 Testing and Your Results

There are four potential results that you will receive after taking the test

## What It Means

## What To Do

### Positive Result

A **positive test** result means that the COVID-19 virus was detected in your specimen.

NOTE: The incubation period for COVID-19 is between 2-14 days. Depending on when you were tested, or the sensitivities of a given test, be aware that future tests may come back negative.

You should self-isolate. You can contact your medical provider or local health department authorities for further instructions. Additionally, your local health department may also contact you.

Only a physician can give you a diagnosis. They can also provide information on how to care for yourself and to help protect others from infection.

### Presumptive Positive

A **presumptive positive result** indicates that you had a marginal trace of the COVID-19 virus in your specimen. This may mean you are either very early in your COVID infection and the amount of virus is just beginning to rise, or you are later in your COVID infection and the overall amount of virus is declining. It could also mean you are infected with COVID, but the sample that was taken for testing only captured a minimal amount of the virus when swabbing.

You should self-isolate. You can contact your medical provider or local health department authorities for further instructions. Additionally, your local health department may also contact you.

You will be asked to submit a new specimen so another test can be run.

### Negative

A **negative test result** means that COVID-19 virus was not detected in your specimen at the time of your test.

Negative results mean that the virus was not detected at the time of the tests. If you are feeling symptoms (fevers, chills, cough, shortness of breath, muscle and body aches, fatigue, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, runny nose, congestion, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea), contact a doctor and ask whether you should be retested because (1) you may have contracted the virus after your test, or; (2) your test may have been a false negative.

### Invalid

An **invalid test** result means that the lab was unable to confirm the presence or absence of COVID-19 in your specimen.

You should self-isolate. You can contact your medical provider or local health department authorities for further instructions. Additionally, your local health department may also contact you. You will be asked to submit a new specimen so another test can be run.

- The test detects if you have SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) at the time of the test only. It does not test for immunity or if you had the virus in the past. More details about the COVID-19 Test, including a Patient Fact Sheet, are available at: <https://www.color.com/covid19-details>.
- Your specimen may be collected via a nasopharyngeal or nasal swab. The most common risks are mild pain or discomfort, a little gagging, coughing or a minor nosebleed.
- Your information and results will be shared with your ordering provider and, when required by law, with certain federal, state, or local agencies for public health purposes.
- After the test is complete, de-identified specimens and data may be used for COVID-19 related quality assurance, validation and laboratory testing development.

# COVID-19 Testing and Your Results

While awaiting your results and whether your COVID-19 test is positive or negative, it is still important for you to take the following actions for care at home



Wash hands thoroughly and frequently with **soap and water for at least 20 seconds**. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. **Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.**



To cough or sneeze, **cover mouth and nose with a tissue and immediately dispose of it**. If no tissue is available, cough/sneeze into the inside of elbow, not hands. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water immediately following.



**Avoid sharing eating utensils, towels, linens, clothes or other items.** Wash items thoroughly with soap and water.



**Practice physical distancing.** This includes avoiding crowded public places where close contact with others may occur. Maintain distance of 6 feet (2 meters) from others, when possible. **Avoid contact with people who are sick.**



Use **cloth face coverings** at all times including when you are outside and unable to maintain physical distance 6 feet (2 meters) away from others. The only exception to face coverings is if you are at home or inside your vehicle with only members of your own household.



**Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces** such as tabletops, light switches, handles, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and doorknobs.



**Open windows** and use a fan (if possible) in shared spaces for good airflow.



**Be alert for symptoms.** Watch for fevers, chills, cough, shortness of breath, muscle and body aches, fatigue, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, runny nose, congestion, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

**Seek immediate medical care or call 911 if you are having severe difficulty breathing, chest pressure or pain, and/or cannot catch your breath, blue lips, confusion, or difficulty waking or staying awake.**

