Your COVID-19 testing questions answered

Have questions about COVID-19 tests? Here are some helpful answers about testing so you can make important decisions that keep yourself, your loved ones and our communities safe.

Can I get tested for COVID-19 at Walgreens?

Yes, we offer free drive-thru testing for ages 3 and older at 7,000+ locations nationwide.* And, if you can't drive to a Walgreens drive-thru, we also offer at-home test options.

Visit Walgreens.com/COVIDTesting to learn more and schedule a test.

Are at-home COVID-19 tests covered by insurance?

At-home tests may be covered at no cost to you.† For details, ask your local Walgreens pharmacy, check with your plan or learn more at Walgreens.com/COVIDTesting.

When is a COVID-19 test most accurate?

It's better to test at least a few days after exposure to make sure there is enough of the virus in your system to be detected. The CDC recommends testing when symptoms develop, or 5 to 7 days after exposure if you aren't showing symptoms.

What's the difference between the types of COVID-19 tests offered by Walgreens?

We offer three types of free drive-thru COVID-19 testing options:*

1. **PCR Laboratory Test** is used to detect genetic material (mRNA) of COVID-19 and is sent to a laboratory to determine results.

2. **Rapid NAAT Test** is performed on-site and is used to detect genetic material (mRNA).

3. **Rapid Antigen Test** detects the presence of a specific viral antigen and is performed on-site. A follow-up diagnostic test may be required to confirm a positive result.

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How and when will I receive my COVID-19 test results?

Test result turnaround times vary based on location and test type taken. You will be notified of the results online, by mail or by phone.

- PCR Laboratory Test: Most turnaround times are within 48 hours.[‡]
- Rapid NAAT Test: Results are available within 2 hours
- Rapid Antigen Test: Results are available within 2 hours

How soon after exposure to COVID-19 should I get tested?

Per the CDC, get tested immediately if you have symptoms of COVID-19, and isolate until you know your results, even if you're fully vaccinated.

What do I need to bring with me to a drive-thru COVID-19 test?

You will be asked to bring:

- Copy of your confirmation email
- Valid state ID or driver's license
- Insurance card or voucher, if applicable. For patients ages 3 to 18, the parent or legal guardian who provided consent to test the patient will be asked for the documents listed above.

Pharmacy

What should I do if I've tested positive for COVID-19?

If your results are positive, you should do the following:

- Contact your healthcare provider and follow their instructions
- Avoid public places
- Wear a mask when you must be around other people—those caring directly for you should wear masks when they are with you as well
- Practice self-quarantine

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