

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Antigen Tests

You are a **close contact to someone who has known COVID-19, have no current symptoms of illness, and have a positive COVID-19 antigen test.**

What do your results mean?

You have COVID-19. You are asymptomatic, but you may develop symptoms. You could infect others.

What should you do?

- You should [isolate](#) until you are no longer contagious.
- People with asymptomatic COVID-19 are considered contagious until the following 2 things have happened:
 - At least 10 days have passed since the date your specimen was collected for your first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, **and**
 - You continue to have no [symptoms](#) since the test.
- If you develop symptoms, you should contact your healthcare provider.

What does it mean to be in "isolation"?

- Isolation is the separation of people with COVID-19 from others. People in isolation need to stay home and separate themselves from others in the home as much as possible.



Coronavirus (COVID-19): Antigen Tests

You have **COVID-19 symptoms and a positive COVID-19 antigen test.**

What do your results mean?

You have COVID-19 now. You could infect others.

What should you do?

- You should [isolate](#) until you are no longer contagious.
- People with COVID-19 are contagious until the following 3 things have happened:
 - At least 10 days have passed since [symptoms](#) first appeared, **and**
 - At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication, **and**
 - Other symptoms have improved.*

*Note that loss of taste or smell might persist for weeks or months and this should not delay the end of isolation.

What does it mean to be in "isolation"?

- Isolation is the separation of people with COVID-19 from others. People in isolation need to stay home and separate themselves from others in the home as much as possible.



Coronavirus (COVID-19): Antigen Tests

You are **not a close contact to a person with COVID-19, have no symptoms of illness, but have a positive COVID-19 antigen test.**

What do your results mean?

It is possible that you have COVID-19. You are asymptomatic now, but you may develop [symptoms](#). A different type of test is required to confirm that you have COVID-19. This test is called a PCR test, and it may take some time to get this test result. You could infect others. It is estimated that about 30-40% of patients with COVID-19 have no symptoms of illness.

What is a PCR test?

PCR stands for polymerase chain reaction. A PCR test detects the virus's genetic material. It is done by a nasal swab, throat swab, or saliva sample. These tests are highly accurate.

What should you do?

- You should [isolate](#) until you receive the result of your PCR test.
- If your PCR test is positive, you should isolate until you are no longer contagious.
- People with asymptomatic COVID-19 are considered contagious until the following 2 criteria are met:
 - At least 10 days have passed since the date your specimen was collected for your first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, **and**
 - You continue to have no symptoms since the test.
- If you develop symptoms, you should contact your healthcare provider.

What does it mean to be in "isolation"?

- Isolation is the separation of people with COVID-19 from others. People in isolation need to stay home and separate themselves from others in the home as much as possible.



Coronavirus (COVID-19): Antigen Tests

You have **COVID-19 symptoms and a negative COVID-19 antigen test.**

What do your results mean?

- The antigen test was not able to detect the virus that causes COVID-19. However, you may still have COVID-19, and a different type of test is required for confirmation. This test is called a PCR test, and it may take some time to get this test result. You could infect others.

What is a PCR test?

- PCR stands for polymerase chain reaction. A PCR test detects the virus's genetic material. It is done by a nasal swab, throat swab, or saliva sample. These tests are highly accurate.

What should you do?

- You should [isolate](#) until you receive the result of your PCR test.
- If your PCR test is positive, you should isolate until you are no longer contagious. Most people with COVID-19 are considered contagious until the following 3 things have happened:
 - At least 10 days have passed since [symptoms](#) first appeared, **and**
 - At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication, **and**
 - Other symptoms have improved.**

**Note that loss of taste or smell might persist for weeks or months and this should not delay the end of isolation.

What does it mean to be in "isolation"?

- Isolation is the separation of people with COVID-19 from others. People in isolation need to stay home and separate themselves from others in the home as much as possible.



Coronavirus (COVID-19): Antigen Tests

You are a close contact to someone who has known COVID-19, but you have no symptoms of illness, and a negative COVID-19 antigen test.

What do your results mean?

- The antigen test did not detect the virus that causes COVID-19. However, there is a chance that you may still have COVID-19 or develop [symptoms](#) of COVID-19.

What should you do?

- Even though you had a negative test, you should complete the full 14-day [quarantine](#). This is the safest option.
- It is safe to end quarantine when the following things have happened:
 - At least 14 days have passed since your last contact with the person with COVID-19,
 - AND**
 - You remain healthy (i.e., you have no symptoms of COVID-19).
- If you develop symptoms, you should contact your healthcare provider for testing.
- If you're not able to stay home for 14 days and don't have symptoms, there are two options:
 - You may leave home after Day 10 without testing, counting your date of last exposure as Day 0, **OR**
 - After Day 7 if a PCR or antigen test performed on or after Day 5 is negative.
 - When considering leaving quarantine early, follow local recommendations, including those from your school or workplace, because a full 14-day period might be required
- People who have recovered from COVID-19 in the past 3 months or been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 are not required to quarantine after close contact as long as they have no symptoms. [Fully vaccinated](#) means 2 weeks or more have passed since getting the second dose of a two-dose vaccine or one dose of a single-dose vaccine.
- It is **very important** that people who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 monitor for symptoms and follow all recommendations (e.g., get tested, wear a mask and watch their distance (with some [exceptions for fully vaccinated people](#)), avoid crowds, and wash hands frequently) for 14 days after the last exposure, **even if they leave quarantine early or are not required to quarantine.**

What does it mean to be in "quarantine"?

- Quarantine is the separation of people who were in close contact with a person with COVID-19 from others. People in quarantine should stay home and monitor their health closely in case they become ill. If you test **negative** during your quarantine period, you will still **need to** monitor for [symptoms](#) and follow all other recommendations (e.g., [wear a mask](#), [watch your distance](#), [wash your hands often](#)) for the full 14-day period.



Coronavirus (COVID-19): Antigen Tests

You are **not a close contact to someone with COVID-19, have no symptoms of illness, and have a negative COVID-19 antigen test.**

What do your results mean?

- You do not have COVID-19.

What should you do?

- Continue to practice everyday prevention measures. Maintain [physical distance](#) (at least 6 feet) between yourself and others* and avoid large gatherings.
- [Wash your hands often](#), stay home if you are sick, and [disinfect high-touch surfaces](#) frequently.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a [mask](#), also known as a cloth face covering, when around people who do not live with you.*
- Get the [COVID-19 vaccine](#) when available.
- If you develop [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, please contact your healthcare provider for guidance and to be tested for COVID-19.
 - It is recommended that you call your provider and let them know what is going on rather than just stopping by the office.

* With some [exceptions for fully vaccinated people](#)

What are typical symptoms of COVID-19?

- People with COVID-19 might not have any symptoms. If they do have symptoms, these can range from mild to severe illness.
- Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.
- Not everyone with COVID-19 will have all symptoms, and fever may or may not be present.
- Symptoms typically appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

