

COVID-19 PCR SWAB

DESCRIPTION

The test is a qualitative test that detects the live active virus for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. This test helps identify if you have been exposed to the virus. The COVID-19 PCR test is a molecular test that detects the virus's genetic material.

Symptom can range from mild (or no symptoms) to severe illness. One can be infected from respiratory droplets when an infected person sneezes or coughs. Other ways that one can be infected is by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then touching their mouth, nose, or eyes.

WHAT IS A MOLECULAR PCR TEST?

Molecular Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing is a method to analyze short sequence of genetic material. The PCR method is widely used to rapidly make millions to billions of copies of specific DNA sample. PCR is now common and indispensable technique used in medical laboratories across the United States.

WHY DO I NEED THIS TEST?

If you believe you have been exposed to COVID-19 or have had COVID like symptoms recently. This test is also conducted in order to return to work or to travel out of the country.

WHAT TYPE OF SPECIMEN WILL BE COLLECTED FOR THIS TEST?

This test requires either a nasal or nasopharyngeal specimen collection.

AM I REQUIRED TO FAST FOR THIS LAB TEST?

No, fasting is not required. There are no dietary or medicinal restrictions to take this test.

IS A DOCTOR'S ORDER REQUIRED?

Any Lab Test Now's ordering physician will provide the required physician's order on your behalf.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO GET MY LAB TEST RESULTS?

Results from the COVID-19 PCR swab test are generally available within 2 to 3 business days after the specimen is received by the lab.

IS THIS TEST APPROVED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)?

No, but it has been granted FDA EUA authorization. During a public health emergency, the FDA can use its Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to provide more timely access to critical medical products that may help during the emergency when there are no adequate, approved, and available options.

According to the FDA “more flexibility was needed during a pandemic of this scale and speed, and incorporating feedback from the medical community, states and test developers, we have also provided regulatory flexibility for serological tests in an effort to provide laboratories and health care providers with early access to these tests with the understanding that the FDA had not reviewed or authorized (or “approved”) them, at least not initially, and these tests should not be used for diagnosing or excluding active SARS-CoV-2 infection. Specifically, last month, as part of our broader strategy, the FDA issued a policy explaining that FDA does not intend to object when developers of serological tests market or use their tests without prior FDA review where: 1) the tests are validated by the developer to determine that they are accurate and reliable, 2) notification of the developer’s validation is provided to FDA, and 3) the tests are labeled appropriately, including that they are not to be used as a sole basis for diagnosis.

The test you receive follows the above referenced FDA guidelines.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN IF I HAVE A POSITIVE TEST RESULT?

If you have a positive result for this test, it does indicate that the RNA from the SARS-CoV-2 was detected and that you are considered to be infected with the virus and presumed to be contagious.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN IF I HAVE A NEGATIVE TEST RESULT?

If you have a negative result for this test, which means that the SAR-CoV-2 genetic material was not present in the specimen and it is likely you are not infected at the time of test. However, you can still become infected later.

IF I AM INFECTED BUT DON’T HAVE SYMPTOMS, CAN I STILL SPREAD THE VIRUS?

Yes, some people who have been infected with the SAR-CoV-2 might not display any symptoms (Asymptomatic). However, they can still be contagious and spread the virus to other people.

WHAT IF I WANT TO DISCUSS THE RESULTS WITH A PHYSICIAN?

You can share your results with your healthcare provider or contact our telemedicine partner, DialCare, and they will assist you in interpreting the results. Any Lab Test Now does not diagnose or interpret results.

WHAT IF I WANT TO GET A FREE COVID-19 ANTIGEN TEST?

Free options for testing are available. The COVID-19 PCR Test may be covered by your insurance plan or the government, with no out-of-pocket costs to you. . If you are interested in this option, please contact your healthcare provider. Any Lab Test Now provides transparent pricing and an option for consumers who want fast and convenient access to laboratory testing. Please note that you can use your HSA or FSA for the cost of the test.

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Ekan Essien, MD, MPH, a native Georgian, received his BA from Duke University. Dr. Essien continued his education at Florida A&M University where he received his Masters of Public Health in Epidemiology; received his medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee; and obtained training in general and trauma surgery at Grady Memorial Hospital at Morehouse School of Medicine. He is a candidate in the post graduate fellowship in anti-aging and regenerative medicine from the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine.