

COVID-19 PCR ANTIGEN

DESCRIPTION

The COVID-19 antigen test is designed to detect specific proteins on the virus. The test is a qualitative nasal or nasopharyngeal swab test that will show if you have the live active virus for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

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 AN ANTIGEN TEST?

The antigen test detects for certain proteins on the COVID-19 virus, which implies current viral infection. The sample collection of either a nasal or nasopharyngeal swab with an antigen test can produce results the same day. Due to the speed of this test, the antigen test may be more practical to use for large numbers of people. Antigen testing has also been commonly used in the diagnosis of influenza virus and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

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 school.

WHAT TYPE OF SPECIMEN WILL BE COLLECTED FOR THIS TEST?

This test requires either a nasal or nasopharyngeal sample.

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 antigen test are ready the same day.

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 protein 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 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.

There is a chance that the result might be a false-negative result, meaning that it is possible to be infected with the virus but still have a negative result. Depending on the situation a COVID-19 PCR test would be recommended to confirm a negative antigen test.

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 antigen 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.

WRITTEN BY: EKAN ESSIEN, MD, MPH MEDICAL DIRECTOR

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.