

COVID-19 and Flu Panel Rapid Molecular / PCR Test

DESCRIPTION

The test is a qualitative test that is used to detect the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the virus that causes COVID-19, and/or viruses that can cause Influenza (Flu A or Flu B). This test helps identify if you have been exposed to either of these viruses and currently carry any of the virus. Symptoms 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 TEST?

Molecular testing is a testing method used to analyze short sequences of genetic material. The most commonly known and utilized form of Molecular Testing is Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). The PCR method is widely used to rapidly make millions to billions of copies of a specific DNA sample, which are then marked for identification. When a virus has RNA (such as the COVID-19 virus or Influenza virus), a Reverse Transcriptase (RT) is used to create the DNA from the RNA, so that the PCR can identify the genetic material. This is now a common and indispensable technique used in medical laboratories across the

United States. Other forms of molecular testing (LAMP, isothermal expansion, TMA, et.) use similar technology and produce a similar result; even though the technology might differ slightly in the method of creating and identifying the copies as previously mentioned.

WHY DO I NEED THIS TEST?

If you believe you have been exposed to COVID-19 or Influenza, or have had nonspecific respiratory symptoms recently and want to better identify a potential cause.

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 are typically available in 2 hours or less.

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 or Influenza A or B 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, it means that the SAR-CoV-2, Influenza A or Influenza B genetic material was not detected in the specimen, and it is most likely you are *not* infected at the time of test. It is still possible that the amount of virus was too low to detect with this initial test, or that you can still become infected later. A negative result should not be used as the sole basis for treatment or other medical management decisions, and should be combined with clinical observation and patient history in some cases.

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

Yes, some people who have been infected with either of these viruses might not display any symptoms (referred to as *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 TEST?

Free options for testing are available. Some tests for COVID-19 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 for the post graduate fellowship in anti-aging and regenerative medicine from the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine.