

What you need to know about COVID-19 testing

Understand the facts about COVID-19 testing so you can protect yourself, your family and your community from the spread of the disease.

Diagnostic Swab Test

Antibody Blood Test

What is it?



Determines presence of the COVID-19 virus.



Determines previous infection of the COVID-19 virus.

Who should get it?



If you have symptoms like fever, cough, and trouble breathing.



This may be recommended by your health care provider to test for evidence that you have already had COVID-19.

How is it performed?



Nasal or throat swab



Blood draw or finger prick

Where is it done?



Typically at drive-through collection sites



Typically at a medical facility

What if it's positive?



Rest at home and self-isolate to avoid spreading COVID-19. Contact your health care provider if symptoms worsen.



You have developed antibodies against the COVID-19 virus. This does not mean you are protected against reinfection.

What are the benefits of testing?



If positive, you can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by self-isolating.



Your antibodies may be able to help treat others with severe coronavirus disease.

What does it cost?



Patients have no financial responsibility for this test at this time.



Patients have no financial responsibility for this test at this time.

Questions

Call the Mayo Clinic COVID-19 Hotline at 1-507-293-9525. Interpretive services are available. Visit [mayoclinic.org/coronavirus-covid-19](https://www.mayoclinic.org/coronavirus-covid-19) or [mayoclinichealthsystem.org/covid19](https://www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org/covid19).