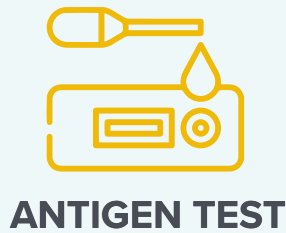


TYPES OF COVID-19 TESTS



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A quick-response biochemical test that does not require a lab.

DESCRIPTION

A molecular test using a multi-process lab technique called polymerase chain reaction.

Uses lab-made antibodies on a test strip to detect the presence of virus antigens from a swab sample.

HOW IT WORKS

Detects the virus's genetic material.

Nasal swab - just inside the nose.

TEST METHOD

Nasopharyngeal swab - farther back in the nose.

Called a "rapid" test; results delivered in four hours or less.

SPEED

Results typically in 24 hours or less.

Very accurate positive results. Small chance for a "false negative." After the sixth day of symptoms, it is harder to find evidence of the virus.

ACCURACY

Considered the gold standard for accuracy. So sensitive it can find pieces of the virus long after symptoms are gone and the person is no longer contagious.

- You've had COVID-19 in the past 90 days.
- Symptoms for five days or less.
- Need fast results.
- Prefers less invasive swab.

WHEN TO CHOOSE

- Symptoms longer than six days.
- To confirm results from a previous test.
- Need "the gold standard" of accuracy.

