# Test for Current Infection

Protect yourself and others. Wear a mask, wash hands often, stay 6 ft from others.

## Considerations for who should get tested

* People who have symptoms of COVID-19
* People who have had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with someone with confirmed COVID-19
* People who have been asked or referred to get testing by their healthcare provider, [local](https://www.naccho.org/membership/lhd-directory) or [state](https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/healthdirectories/healthdepartments.html) health department.

Not everyone needs to be tested. If you do get tested, you should self-quarantine/isolate at home pending test results and follow the advice of your health care provider or a public health professional.

## Take steps to protect yourself

Whether you test positive or negative for COVID-19, you should take preventive measures to [protect yourself and others](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html).

## How to get a viral test

A viral test checks samples to find out if you are currently infected with COVID-19.  The time it takes to process these tests can vary.

* You can visit your [state](https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/healthdirectories/healthdepartments.html) or [local](https://www.naccho.org/membership/lhd-directory) health department’s website to look for the latest local information on testing.
* If you have symptoms of COVID-19 and want to get tested, call your healthcare provider first.
* If you have symptoms of COVID-19 and are not tested, it is important to stay home. Find out [what to do if you are sick](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html).

## What to do after a viral test

To get your test result, please check with the group that performed your test, such as your healthcare provider or [health department](https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/healthdirectories/healthdepartments.html). How long it will take to get your test results depends on the test used.

* **If you test positive for COVID-19**, know what protective steps to take [if you are sick](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/index.html).
  + Most people have mild COVID-19 illness and can recover at home without medical care. Contact your healthcare provider if your symptoms are getting worse or if you have questions about your health.
* **If you test negative for COVID-19**, you probably were not infected at the time your sample was collected. This does not mean you will not get sick:
* A negative test result only means that you did not have COVID-19 at the time of testing or that your sample was collected too early in your infection.
* You could also be exposed to COVID-19 after the test and then get infected and spread the virus to others.
* If you have symptoms later, you may need another test to determine if you are infected with the virus that causes COVID-19.

Content source: National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), Division of Viral Diseases

Link to CDC Website: [Test for Current Infection](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/diagnostic-testing.html) (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/diagnostic-testing.html).

The End