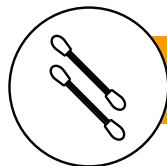


COVID-19 Testing 101



There are two kinds of COVID-19 testing you may be hearing about – a diagnostic test (PCR) and an antibody test (serology). Here’s some basic information about each one.



Diagnostic (PCR) Test



Antibody (Serology) Test

What does the test show?

If a person is **currently infected** with COVID-19

May show if a person has had a COVID-19 infection **sometime in the past**

How is the test performed?

A **thin swab** is inserted into the back of the nose or throat to check if the virus is present

A **needle or fingerstick** is used to obtain a blood sample, which is then analyzed to see if it contains antibodies to the virus

What value do the test results provide?

A positive result can help **guide care** for the individual infected, and encourage isolation to **slow the spread of the virus** throughout the community

A positive antibody result may show that a person **has been infected before**, but scientists do not yet know if this prevents an individual from being re-infected in the future

Who is the test for?

People who **have COVID-19 symptoms** (like cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat and loss of taste or smell) and some who are asymptomatic **as prioritized by Public Health Services**

Scientists **researching the virus** to better understand how much of the population has been infected, or medical workers determining who may be **eligible to donate plasma** to COVID-19 patients – but the CDC says this test is not currently designed for individual use¹

Where is the test available?

From **your doctor** – Orange County residents who have symptoms, but who are **unable** to get a test with their own health care providers, can make an appointment for free testing through the OC COVID-19 Testing Network at **(800) 564-8448** or **ohealthinfo.com/covidtest**

Contact **your health care provider** to discuss antibody testing

For more information on COVID-19 and testing, visit ohealthinfo.com/covidtest.

¹ cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/serology-testing.html