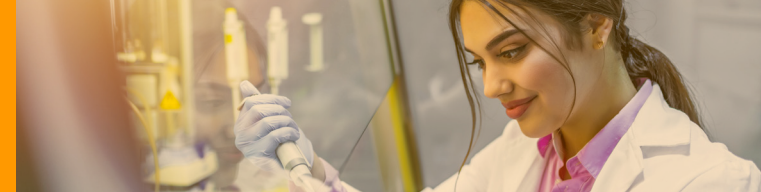


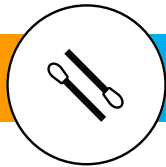
COVID-19 Testing 101



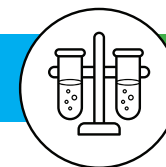
There are three kinds of COVID-19 testing you may be hearing about – a diagnostic test (PCR), an antigen test, and an antibody test (serology). Here’s some basic information about each one.



Diagnostic (PCR) Test



Antigen Test



Antibody (Serology) Test

What does the test show?

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

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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

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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

Antigen tests provide **inexpensive** and **rapid results**, but are generally less sensitive than PCR tests, meaning **not as accurate** at detecting the virus

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**

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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 find out locations for free testing through the OC COVID-19 Testing Network at **ohealthinfo.com/covidtest** or find out more by calling **(800) 564-8448**

Some medical providers and testing sites offer **antigen testing instead** of PCR

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