COVID-19

Getting Tested for COVID-19

What types of tests are there for COVID-19?

There are two types of tests for COVID-19:

- The **viral test** will tell if you are currently infected with the virus that causes COVID-19.
- An **antibody test** will tell you if you have previously been infected. However, there is not enough research yet to know if antibodies can protect someone from getting infected again.

Why should you get tested for COVID-19?

- Getting tested will help you to protect yourself, your loved ones and your community.
- Symptoms of COVID-19 may be similar to other common illnesses and can vary from person to person and getting tested can let you know for sure if you have the virus.
- Some people who are infected may have no symptoms. This means you could spread the virus without even knowing it.
- Minority groups and those with health conditions are at increased risk for severe illness and death from COVID-19.

What should you expect when you get tested for COVID-19?

1. The healthcare professional will take a sample from your nose (nasal swab). While collecting the sample from deep in your nose can be uncomfortable, this type of swab increases the accuracy of your test result.
2. Your test sample will be sent to a laboratory to be tested. This can take a few days.
3. While you wait for your results, you should:
   - **Self-isolate at home**
   - **Wear a mask and social distance if you must be in public**
   - **Seek medical care if symptoms worsen**
4. The healthcare professional who collected your sample will call you with the results of your test.
5. The healthcare professional will discuss what your results mean when they call you. It is important to remember that a negative result now does not mean you can't get sick later.
6. Whether you test positive or negative for COVID-19, you should continue to take preventive measures to protect yourself and others.

https://tricountyhealth.com/local-covid-19-situational-update/

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