

COVID-19: Your Guide to Different Tests

	Purpose	Who does this apply to?	How does it work?	Why is it important?
COVID-19 Molecular Test	<p>Detects genetic material of the virus. RT-PCR is the most sensitive test and is done in a clinical laboratory.</p>	<p>Suspected COVID-19 patients and asymptomatic patients in certain situations (e.g. exposure, pre-procedure).</p>	<p>Specimens are obtained through a throat or nose swab.</p>	<p>A patient with a positive result knows they are contagious and is advised to self-quarantine to help prevent spread of the disease.</p>
COVID-19 Antigen Test	<p>A test to see if someone currently has COVID-19.</p> <p>Tests for certain proteins on the surface of the COVID-19 virus.</p>	<p>Suspected COVID-19 patients and asymptomatic patients in certain situations (e.g. exposure, pre-procedure).</p>	<p>Specimens are obtained through a throat or nose swab.</p>	<p>Due to less sensitivity than a molecular test, a negative result may need to be confirmed with a molecular test if COVID is suspected. There is a higher possibility of a false positive.</p>
Antibody Test	<p>A test to see if someone had COVID-19 in the past.</p>	<p>Anyone who was potentially exposed to COVID-19. Anyone who wants to know if they antibodies to COVID-19.</p>	<p>Labs use patient's blood to look for antibodies in response to COVID-19.</p>	<p>It is important to know the total number of people who had COVID-19 and may have been asymptomatic.</p>
Positive Test Results Could Help with COVID-19 Treatment for Others				
Convalescent Plasma	<p>An investigational treatment for COVID-19 patients with severe illness.</p>	<p>COVID-19 survivors and those currently sick with COVID-19.</p>	<p>Recovered COVID-19 patients donate their blood plasma.</p>	<p>Using plasma is a promising way to treat COVID-19 patients with severe illness or prevent other patients from becoming sicker.</p>