

Your guide to COVID-19 testing

An overview for patients and the public

The Antigen PCR Test

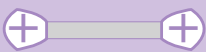


Tests for the presence of **virus** in your body. You may be asked to do this test to confirm if you currently have COVID-19

This test works best between
2 days before and 7 days after
you have symptoms



Test can be carried out using:
Nose swabs
Throat swabs



Positive

Confirms you currently have the virus and must self-isolate or seek medical assistance if unwell

Does not tell you

how ill you might become or when you got the virus



Negative

Test is **only 75% accurate** - if you are experiencing symptoms you may be asked to be **re-tested 2-3 days later** and continue to be isolated

If it has been more than 10 days since your symptoms started, you might be asked to also have an antibody test

The Antibody Test



Tests if you have been **previously infected** with the virus and have had an immune response

This test works best
at least 14 days
following your first symptoms



Test can be carried out using:
A blood sample



Positive

You have previously had the virus and had an immune response

Does not tell you

if you are protected from becoming ill again if exposed to COVID-19, or how long protection may last for

You must still follow advice



keep 2m apart



Negative

It is likely you have not had COVID-19. However, the test is only around **80% accurate in mild disease** (but higher in severe disease), so there is a **20% chance** that you have had COVID-19, but the test has not detected an antibody response.