

# COVID-19 Tests: What does it mean for me?

## Molecular Test

Results in 24 to 72 hours

## Antigen Test

Results as quickly as 15 minutes

## Antibody Test

Results same day to several days

### What are other names?

Diagnostic test, viral test, rapid test, nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), RT-PCR test, PCR test

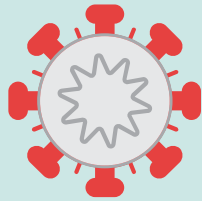
Rapid test, diagnostic test, point-of-care test

Serological test, serology, blood test, serology test (Antibody test is not a diagnostic test).

### What does the test detect?



Genetic material of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19



Proteins on surface of SARS-CoV-2



Antibodies that your immune system produces against SARS-CoV-2

### How is the sample taken?

From your nose or throat (most tests), or saliva (few tests)

From your nose or throat

Finger stick or blood draw

### What does a positive test result mean?



That you have an active COVID-19 infection.



That you likely have an active COVID-19 infection.

Antigen tests can give false positive results. If you do not have symptoms but you receive a positive antigen result, your health care provider may recommend a molecular test to confirm the result.



That you have previously been infected or vaccinated.

### What does a negative test result mean?



That you probably did not have an active COVID-19 infection at the time of testing.



That you likely don't have an active infection.

Antigen tests can give false negative results. If you have symptoms and receive a negative result, your health care provider may recommend a molecular test to confirm the result. You should isolate until your molecular result is received.



That you may not have had COVID-19 in the past.

For more information about test results, go to: [doh.wa.gov/testing](https://doh.wa.gov/testing)