



AT-HOME COVID-19 RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS: ADMINISTERING, REPORTING & NEXT STEPS



Rapid antigen tests are a safe, easy, and fast way to screen for potential COVID-19 cases at home or in the workplace.

At-home tests are a convenient alternative for anyone who is unable to access a PCR test right away.

WHO SHOULD TEST?

Any person who is symptomatic and/or has been exposed to someone who has COVID-19 should get tested, regardless of vaccination status.

Symptomatic individuals should get tested as soon as possible.

Asymptomatic individuals with known exposure should get tested AFTER five days have passed since the date of exposure.

TAKING THE TEST



Blow your nose and wash your hands before beginning.



Read test kit instructions, paying special attention to timing.



Perform swab. Insert absorbent tip $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ inch and circle five times inside each nostril.



Wait the length of time indicated in your test kit instructions before reading results.

NEXT STEPS

We recommend the following steps, based on your results:

- ▶ **Positive, with or without symptoms:** You likely have an active COVID-19 infection. You should isolate yourself from others for at least five days. If possible, schedule a PCR test to confirm your at-home test results. Also take steps to inform close contacts and report your positive at-home test results on the MD Department of Health's new reporting portal: <https://bit.ly/3qqa4G6>
- ▶ **Negative, with symptoms:** You either (1) do not currently have an active COVID-19 infection, or (2) do have COVID-19 but were tested too early or too late in the virus' progression to show a positive result. Continue to isolate, wash hands, wear masks, and limit social contact until ten days after a known exposure. Retest at home 24-36 hours after your initial test.
- ▶ **Negative, without symptoms:** You either (1) do not currently have an active COVID-19 infection, or (2) do have COVID-19 but were tested too early or too late in the virus' progression to show a positive result. It's important to remember that asymptomatic individuals may still transmit the virus to others. Retest 24-36 hours after the initial test and continue to wash hands, wear masks, and limit social contact until ten days after a known exposure.

The CDC defines a **close contact** as anyone who was less than 6 feet away from you for a combined total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

For more information about informing close contacts about potential exposure, visit <https://bit.ly/32kA6Be>

A note on self-reporting: the at-home positive tests reported through MDH's new portal will NOT be included in the case numbers reported by MDH on its data dashboard. Only laboratory- or provider-reported PCR results are counted in the daily case numbers. For more information, visit: <https://covidlink.maryland.gov/>