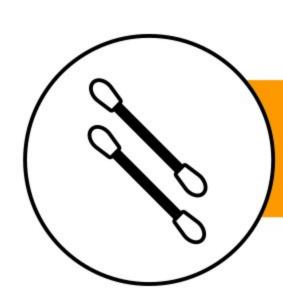
COVID-19 Testing 101



There are two kinds of COVID-19 testing you may be hearing about - a diagnostic test (PCR) and an antibody test (serology). Here's some basic information about each one.



Diagnostic (PCR) Test



Antibody (Serology) Test

What does the test show?

If a person is **currently infected** with COVID-19

May show if a person has had a COVID-19 infection **sometime** in the past

How is the test performed?

A **thin swab** is inserted into the back of the nose or throat to check if the virus is present

A **needle or fingerstick** is used to obtain a blood sample, which is then analyzed to see if it contains antibodies to the virus

What value do the test results provide?

A positive result can help **guide care** for the individual infected,
and encourage isolation to **slow the spread of the virus** throughout
the community

A positive antibody result may show that a person has been infected before, but scientists do not yet know if this prevents an individual from being re-infected in the future

Who is the test for?

People who have COVID-19
symptoms (like cough, shortness
of breath, difficulty breathing, fever,
repeated shaking with chills, muscle
pain, headache, sore throat and loss
of taste or smell) and some who
are asymptomatic as prioritized by
Public Health Services

Scientists **researching the virus** to better understand how much of the population has been infected, or medical workers determining who may be **eligible to donate plasma** to COVID-19 patients – but the CDC says this test is not currently designed for individual use¹

Where is the test available?

From your doctor - Orange County residents who have symptoms, but who are unable to get a test with their own health care providers, can make an appointment for free testing through the OC COVID-19 Testing Network at (800) 564-8448 or ochealthinfo.com/covidtest

Contact your health care provider to discuss antibody testing

For more information on COVID-19 and testing, visit ochealthinfo.com/covidtest.

