



# COVID-19 TESTING

SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, is widespread in the United States and many other countries. The virus spreads from person to person through respiratory droplets.

ARUP Laboratories offers two types of COVID-19 tests: a test that detects the COVID-19 virus (also referred to as a molecular diagnostic test) and a test that detects the presence of antibodies to the COVID-19 virus (also referred to as an antibody test).

COVID-19 Test	Purpose of Testing
 Molecular diagnostic test	To diagnose current SARS-CoV-2 infection
 Antibody (serology) test	To determine if antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 are present, which indicates possible exposure to the virus

## Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Testing

### Who should be tested for a current COVID-19 infection?

The CDC recommends testing for all symptomatic individuals with signs or symptoms consistent with COVID-19. All individuals, including those who are asymptomatic, who live or work in a long-term care facility or nursing home, should also undergo testing for SARS-CoV-2 virus. Diagnostic testing for asymptomatic individuals with known or suspected recent exposure to SARS-CoV-2 may also be advised.

### How is COVID-19 testing performed?

A COVID-19 molecular diagnostic test is performed on a respiratory or saliva specimen that is sent to a laboratory. COVID-19 antibody testing requires collection of a blood sample that is then chemically analyzed in a laboratory.

### If I tested negative for COVID-19 infection, will I ever need to be tested again?

A negative result means that you most likely did not have an active COVID-19 infection at the time your sample was collected. This does not mean you cannot become infected at a later time.

Visit the [Frequently Asked Questions page in aruplab.com's COVID-19 Resource Center](#) for more information about your test results.

### What is antibody testing used for in COVID-19? Does it make sense for me to be tested for COVID-19 antibodies?

COVID-19 antibody testing is not used to diagnose active infection and cannot be relied on to determine whether you are immune from future infection. Instead, antibody testing is useful for studying the spread of infection in a population (also known as seroprevalence). For other specific reasons to use antibody testing and for more information, refer to [arupconsult.com's COVID-19 topic](#) and [aruplab.com's COVID-19 Resource Center](#).