

COVID-19 Testing Guidance

Protecting Against COVID-19

Why should I get tested?

Testing for COVID-19 is critical to helping stop the spread of this virus. It saves lives. When we're able to test more individuals in a community it allows us to quickly identify infected individuals, isolate them, and investigate and trace the contacts of those infected. And in that way, it helps us contain and decrease the spread of illness. Testing helps us go on the offense against this virus.

Who can get tested?

The State of Ohio has given health care organizations guidance that allows them to order a test for anyone who wants a test, but some testing sites may have restrictions. Under our guidelines, it doesn't matter if you've been exposed, are at higher risk, or showing no symptoms, anyone can get a test. But it's also not a mandate that testing locations follow this guidance.

Testing standards differ among medical providers and retail locations. Many retail pharmacy locations, doctor's offices, and community health centers will screen an individual before they order or perform a test. They may ask if you have symptoms or if you're part of an at-risk population. It's important to call ahead to ask about their screening procedures and standards, including minimum age for testing, insurance requirements, and physician's order requirements.

Some FQHCs are doing testing and others are not. Again, calling ahead will help you determine if the ones closest to you on the map are testing.

Do I need a doctor's order?

A provider's order is required for all tests. The state allows providers to place a testing order for anyone who wants a test.

At the pop-up sites operated by the state, the tests are open to anyone and we will place the order on-site.

Privately-run sites may have different standards and requirements for testing. But typically, they will create the order on-site if you have symptoms, are in an at-risk population, or have been exposed to the virus. In

other cases, they might require you to visit a doctor in advance to get an order- like you would for an x-ray.

Where can I get tested?

There are many locations around the state where you can be tested. Visit <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov> and click on the “Testing and Community Health Centers” tab. You’ll find a map which identifies more than 500 testing locations throughout the state. These locations are a combination of state-sponsored and private testing sites. Cards on the map include contact information for most locations. It’s important to contact the testing site you are interested in before visiting to make sure you understand all requirements.

How do I find a pop-up site near me?

When you visit the map, you can search by zip code and identify a pop-up location by its yellow pin. You can also visit: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/general-resources/get-tested-for-covid-19-infographic>. We continue to increase pop-sites across the state, especially in areas that show an increase in cases, and continually update the list of available testing locations.

What happens at a pop-up site? How does it work?

Pop-up testing is focused on underserved areas, particularly minority communities, and communities that have seen a recent increase in their infection rate. Anyone can go on the day assigned to a community and get tested. They do not need a doctor’s order ahead of time and they do not need to show symptoms.

Pop-up testing locations are one of the most convenient ways to get tested. You can walk up, drive up, or in some cases park your car and get tested. We continue to increase our pop-up locations.

Because some of these sites have experienced high demand for testing, we encourage you to make an appointment if that option is available. Appointments are not required.

In many cases, the testing site will have three stations. At the first station, you’ll be evaluated for symptoms. The second station you’ll fill out any paperwork needed to complete the testing, including a lab registration form. When you get to the third and final station, you’ll be given the test. Lab results will be sent to the provider that ordered the test.

How do I know if it’s a state-sponsored testing site?

All pop-up locations indicated on the testing map on the coronavirus.ohio.gov website are state-sponsored. You can find these locations by looking for the yellow pin on the website map.

What types of tests are available?

There are several different types of tests available. Which one you receive may depend on where you go. The state-sponsored pop-ups use nasal pharyngeal swabs to test for COVID-19. Other locations may use a standard nasal swab or take a saliva sample.

Will I have to administer the test myself?

Self-administered tests are used at some locations. These tests are administered under the supervision of a trained professional to ensure that they are done properly and give the test the best chance of producing reliable results.

Do I have to pay for my own test?

State testing sites provide testing with no out-of-pocket costs. However, the state does bill Medicaid or insurance if a person has either type of coverage. The state or federal government will cover the costs for those who are uninsured. While this may be the case at many other testing sites the state cannot guarantee that all privately run testing sites will test without charging the patient.

How will I get my test results and how long does it take?

The current turnaround rate on a test depends on where you get it. The time frame varies from 48 hours to 6-7 days. However, in many areas, increased testing demand has led to longer turnaround times for the labs that process your test. You should ask the testing facility when and how you will be contacted with results.

Many times, your doctor will receive the test results and communicate them back to you. If your result is positive, it will be reported to the state and local health departments.

What should I do while I wait for my testing results?

Self-isolate in your home. If you live with others, self-isolate in a private room and use a private bathroom, if possible. Wear a mask if you need to be with others.

What happens if I have a positive test?

You will need to contact your medical provider. The local health department will also provide guidance on how to stay safely at home to avoid spreading illness. A contact tracer also may reach out to you to ask about other people who you've spent time with. This person's role is strictly to map the virus and will only ask questions about recent contacts to help identify the virus' path.

If you don't test positive but have been in contact with a person who has, your local health department will

most likely recommend that you also stay safely at home and monitor for symptoms.

What happens if I have a negative test?

If you are a close contact of a confirmed case, continue to isolate until 14 days after your exposure.

If you tested negative, do not have symptoms, and were not in close contact with a confirmed case, you can stop isolating.

If you tested negative, and do have symptoms, and were not in close contact with a confirmed case, avoid other people until three days after the last day of your respiratory symptoms and fever.

For additional information, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call the COVID-19 Care Line at 1-800-720-9616.

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019



Department
of Health

Protect yourself and others from
COVID-19 by taking these precautions.

PREVENTION

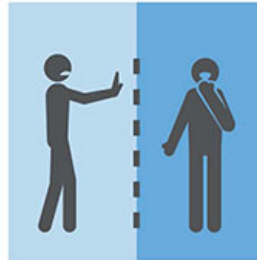
For additional information call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH or visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.



STAY HOME
EXCEPT FOR
WORK AND
OTHER NEEDS



WEAR A FACE
COVERING WHEN
GOING OUT



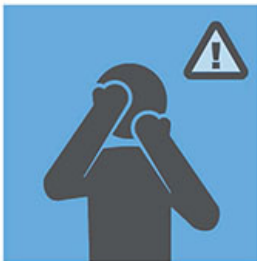
PRACTICE SOCIAL
DISTANCING OF
AT LEAST 6 FEET
FROM OTHERS



SHOP AT
NON-PEAK
HOURS



WASH HANDS OFTEN
WITH WATER AND SOAP
(20 SECONDS
OR LONGER)



AVOID TOUCHING
YOUR EYES, NOSE,
OR MOUTH WITH
UNWASHED HANDS
OR AFTER
TOUCHING SURFACES



COVER YOUR
MOUTH WITH A
TISSUE OR SLEEVE
WHEN COUGHING
OR SNEEZING



CLEAN AND DISINFECT
"HIGH-TOUCH"
SURFACES OFTEN



DON'T WORK
WHEN SICK



CALL BEFORE
VISITING YOUR
DOCTOR

For more information, visit: coronavirus.ohio.gov