

COVID-19 TESTING

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

COVID-19 Viral Test

This test commonly uses a swab to collect a sample of mucus from the middle or back of the nose to see if the virus is present.



PURPOSE

The viral test for COVID-19 will tell you if you **currently have** a SARS-CoV-2 infection, which is the virus that causes COVID-19.

THE RESULTS...

A positive test indicates the virus is present. A negative result indicates that the SARS-CoV2 virus that causes the COVID-19 disease is not present. It is possible to have a very low level of the virus in the body which would provide a negative test result.

WHERE CAN I GET TESTED?

The COVID-19 Viral Nasal Swab test is performed at all of the free drive-through test sites in San Antonio and is the **most effective test** available to diagnose COVID-19 infection at this time.

COVID-19 Antibody (Blood) Test

The blood or serum is obtained by drawing a tube of blood or sometimes a finger prick. Antibody tests, however, can be unreliable.



PURPOSE

Antibody tests seek to determine if you have had a **prior infection**. These blood tests **cannot** be used to diagnose or rule out COVID-19 infections.

THE RESULTS...

A positive antibody test is presumed by many to indicate that a person has developed resistance, and is immune to getting a COVID-19 infection again. This has **NOT** been proven with COVID-19. More time and more research are necessary to understand the meaning of a positive antibody test.

WHERE CAN I GET TESTED?

Contact your doctor or other health care professional to discuss your situation and whether he or she thinks you need a COVID-19 antibody test.

STATEMENT

Individuals should not seek or receive a point of care test; tests must be sent off to a lab to process to obtain the results. On-the-spot antibody testing is not allowed by the FDA at this time.



Have Questions?
Learn more at covid19.sanantonio.gov