



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Frequently Asked Questions About Testing

Updated June 5, 2020

During this time of anticipated large demand on the health care delivery system, you are asked to avoid unscheduled visits to your health care provider. It is important to call ahead.

People who are mildly ill should not go to emergency departments. Mildly ill people should stay home and contact their provider by phone for guidance.

Where am I able to be tested? Whom do I contact?

Contact information for many of the COVID-19 test sites in Maryland can be found at <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/symptoms-testing>. Patients are encouraged to contact the site where they plan to be tested to learn about that site's appointment procedures and other scheduling requirements.

If you plan to test at a site listing "CRISP" as the point of contact, contact your health care provider and ask for your test order to be sent to CRISP. After the order is submitted, you will receive an email or text with an order confirmation code and instructions to schedule your appointment. After you schedule your appointment, you will receive a second email or text message confirming the appointment.

What does the test consist of? What is the process?

Each laboratory has specific requirements for testing. Generally, the test involves a swab of inside the nose. If your health care provider recommends testing, your health care provider will inform you about what type of specimen needs to be collected.

How long does it take to receive results? How do people who are tested get their results?

Generally, the results will be available within two to five days, depending on laboratory testing demands and resources. If you are testing at one of the sites that does not require a doctor's order, you will be provided with instructions for retrieving your results using an online portal. If you are testing at one of the other sites, please discuss with your provider how long it will take to get results, which laboratory will be doing the testing, and how you will receive your results.

Do we have enough tests?

The State of Maryland has recently expanded its testing capacity by more than 5,000 percent, and our testing capacity is expected to continue increasing throughout 2020.

I might have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19. What do I do?

The recommendations for what you should do if you were exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 depend on what type of contact you had with the person diagnosed with COVID-19. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), close contact is defined as being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time. All people, especially close contacts, should carefully monitor any signs of illness and check their temperature twice a day. If illness or a temperature of 100.4 F or greater develops, immediately isolate from others and call a doctor for advice.

Current CDC guidance also recommends that if you have had close contact with a confirmed case, you should stay home from work or school for 14 days after the last exposure to monitor for symptoms and contact your health care provider.

Will I have to pay for the COVID-19 test?

COVID-19 testing will be provided to patients at no out-of-pocket cost.

Will my insurance cover treatment if I test positive for COVID-19?

Health insurance plans cover medically necessary treatment for disease, but the treatment may be subject to deductibles, copayments and coinsurance. You will need to pay those amounts, even if the care is covered. If you have a limited benefits plan, there may be additional restrictions on what is covered.

Where can I learn about drive-through testing sites?

Maryland offers drive-through COVID-19 testing at select Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP) sites and other facilities.

Please visit <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/symptoms-testing> for additional information.