COVID-19 Testing Frequently Asked Questions

Should I be tested if I think I have COVID-19?

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, call your doctor's office. Many people only have mild symptoms. They can recover at home without medical care and may not need to be tested. Your doctor will tell you what you need to do.

What is a viral test?

A viral test is to see if you have COVID-19 right now.

How can I get a viral test?

Call your doctor. Your doctor will be able to tell you what your choices are to get a test.

What does my viral test mean?

A positive test result means you have COVID-19. A negative test means you probably did not have COVID-19 when you got the test.

If you test positive for COVID-19, stay home as much as you can. Stay away from other people in your home. Call your doctor's office if your symptoms get worse. If you can't stay away, wear a mask.

Even if you have a negative test result, you should still be careful.

- If a test was done too early, you could have COVID-19 and get a negative test result.
- You could get COVID-19 after getting the test.

If you test negative and have symptoms later, you might need to get another test.
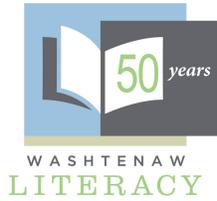
What is an antibody test?

An antibody test is to see if you have had COVID-19 already. When your body fights off a virus, it creates antibodies. These antibodies stay in your body after the illness is gone.

How can I get an antibody test?

Call your doctor's office to ask if they have antibody tests and if you should get one.

What does my antibody test mean?

If you have a negative test for antibodies, you might have not had COVID-19.

If you have a positive test for antibodies, you may have had COVID-19. Antibodies can help protect you from the virus. Doctors do not know how long you will have antibodies. They do not know how well antibodies will protect you.