

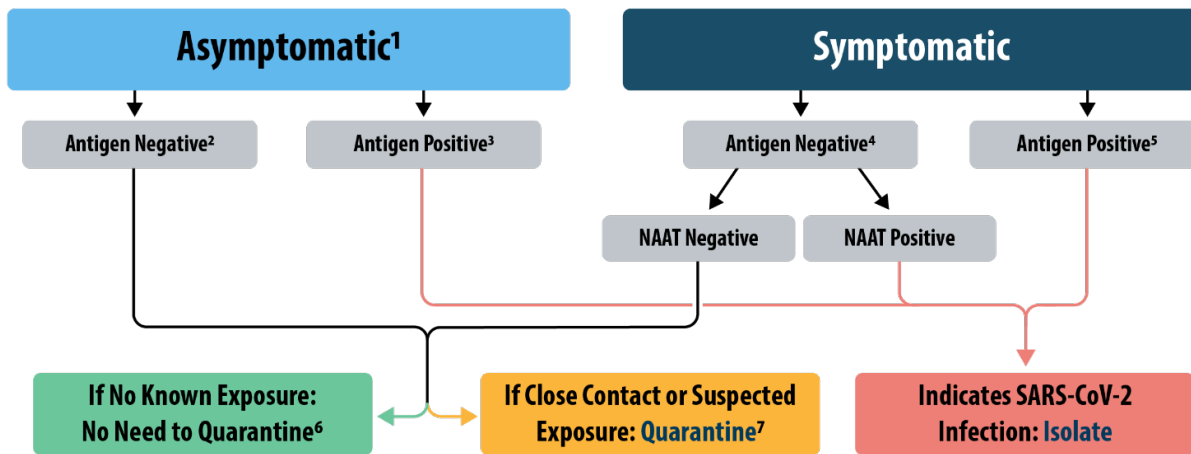
Questions about COVID Testing

Why are more people testing for COVID?

Due to the high infectivity of the Omicron variant, frequent COVID testing helps to identify early infection and slow its spread. Fortunately, there are multiple sites for COVID testing, and even home self-tests, that can be ordered online or purchased at pharmacies and stores .

Which type of COVID test should I get?

There are two types of COVID tests: The COVID PCR test is the most accurate, can take up to a few days to get the results and is available only at testing sites, not as home kits. The COVID antigen test is available at testing sites and in home kits. Antigen tests produce results in minutes. The following flow diagram outlines what steps to take after taking an COVID antigen test.



Clarifying notes on the graphic above:

- “NAAT” is the same as the PCR test
- “Antigen” is the same as the Rapid test
- A positive Antigen test is considered positive and does not need confirmation.
- A positive Antigen test requires isolation and patients with a positive test should not leave their home to seek confirmatory PCR testing. Most medical offices will not let patients who have tested positive in the door.
- After a person with a positive COVID test completes isolation at home, follow up testing is not required.
- A symptomatic patient with a negative Antigen test should have a confirmatory PCR test because the Antigen test will miss some positives.
- An asymptomatic patient with a negative Antigen test does not need a confirmatory PCR test because it is likely that the patient truly is negative. If they subsequently develop symptoms, they should retest immediately.
- A positive home Antigen test should be recorded on the County website by the patient for tracking purposes. <https://covid19.ongov.net/covid-positive/>