

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) TESTING FAQs

SHOULD I GET TESTED?

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, call your healthcare provider. If you meet the requirements for testing, you'll be directed to a test site.

Symptoms may include:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

WHAT TESTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR COVID-19?

Two kinds of tests are available for COVID-19:

Viral tests: check samples from your respiratory system to identify if you are currently infected. Call your doctor to request a test or call 211 if you do not have a doctor. This test is becoming more widely available.

Antibody tests: a blood test identifies if you've already had COVID-19. It can take 1-2 weeks after symptoms occur for your body to make antibodies. It is not known if having antibodies to the virus can protect you from getting infected again. This test is not yet widely available in Wisconsin.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE FOR TEST RESULTS?

Some viral tests are point-of-care tests with results available at a testing site in less than an hour. Other tests must be sent to a laboratory and results are available 1-3 days after received by the lab.

WHY IS ANTIBODY TESTING USEFUL?

According to the CDC, using antibody test results, they can learn about the total number of people that have been infected with COVID-19, including those who might have been missed. They can also estimate how many people have not yet been infected. This can help public health officials plan for future healthcare needs.

ARE THERE CURRENTLY ENOUGH TESTS AVAILABLE IN WISCONSIN?

Wisconsin's testing capacity continues to increase with the goal of testing every person experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

Sources:
www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html and [DHS.gov](https://www.dhs.gov)

[Download Here](#)

May 4, 2020

covid19.mcw.edu