

COVID-19 TEST TYPES

COVID-19 SPECIMEN ACCEPTABILITY & TESTING AVAILABILITY

Type Of Test	Mechanism of Detection	Positive Test Indicates	Specimen Acceptability	Discomfort Level of Specimen Collection	PPE needed for Specimen Collection	Test Sensitivity
Molecular including PCR & NAAT	RT-PCR of genetic sequence of certain markers found in SARS-CoV-2 or other nucleic acid amplification tests	Detects current active SARS-CoV-2 infection	Nasopharyngeal swab (NP)*	Above Average	Full PPE required	Above Average
			Oropharyngeal swab (OP)*	Average	Full PPE required	
			Nasal mid turbinate*	Low-Average	Minimal PPE for observed self-collection / No PPE for in-home collection	
			Anterior nares (nasal) swab*	Low		
			Cheek Swab	Low		Minimal PPE for observed self-collection
			Saliva	Low	Minimal PPE for observed self-collection	Low sensitivity and limited to symptomatic individuals
Antibody Immun-oassay	ELISA detecting IgM or IgG anti SARS-CoV-2 antibodies	Detects past infections or recent exposures	Blood or serum	Average/ Above	Full PPE required in health care setting	Low performance in low prevalence setting
			Finger Stick	Low - Average		
Antigen Immun-oassay	ELISA detecting viral proteins of SARS-CoV-2	Detects current SARS-CoV-2 Infection	Nasopharyngeal swab (NP) or Nasal swab	Above Average	Full PPE required in health care setting	Average & decreases when outside optimal testing window.

Low sensitivity typically less than 80%, Average sensitivity typically between 80-90%, Above Average sensitivity >90%. *Indicates specimen types recommended by the CDC as acceptable for detection of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.