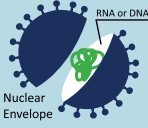
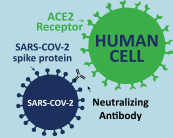








# TYPES OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) TESTS

Last Updated: Aug. 31, 2023

TEST TYPE	NAAT (e.g., PCR)		ANTIGEN TEST	
	NAAT: Nucleic Acid Amplification Test PCR: Polymerase Chain Reaction, a type of NAAT test		Antigen: a substance that causes your immune system to produce antibodies against it	
<b>Purpose of test:</b>	Identify a SARS-CoV-2 infection (COVID-19)			
<b>What it detects:</b>		Genetic material from the virus (RNA)		Proteins on the surface of the virus
<b>How it's collected:</b>		In most cases, nasal swab, throat swab or saliva		In most cases, nasal or throat swab
<b>Speed of results:</b>		Usually 24-72 hours, depending on lab capacity		Usually 15-30 minutes
<b>Convenience:</b>		Requires trained personnel and laboratory analysis for test results		Instant test results can be read at home, school, or child care
<b>When it's most useful:</b>	<p>Identify COVID-19 infection</p> <p>The test is so sensitive that an individual may continue to test positive for up to 90 days after infection, so it is not recommended for anyone who has recently had COVID-19</p> <p>NAAT (e.g., PCR) tests are more sensitive than antigen tests. When an individual has symptoms of COVID-19, it is recommended to confirm a negative antigen test result with a negative NAAT (e.g., PCR) test result</p>		<p>Rapidly identify active COVID-19 infection</p> <p>If an individual recently had a COVID-19 infection, the antigen test can help to determine when they no longer have an active infection</p> <p>Antigen tests are less sensitive than NAAT (e.g., PCR) tests. When an individual has symptoms of COVID-19, it is recommended to confirm a negative antigen test result with a negative NAAT (e.g., PCR) test result</p>	
<b>How test results are shared with schools and child care facilities:</b>	If the individual is tested outside of a school or child care sponsored testing program (e.g., an individual is tested at home or a healthcare facility), the individual should immediately report any positive test result directly to the school or child care facility and follow any instructions that are provided by the school or facility			

**Contact your health care provider or local pharmacy that offers COVID-19 testing services or sells COVID-19 test kits.**

