

TESTING FOR COVID-19 WITH A NASOPHARYNGEAL SWAB

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING YOUR TEST

- **Nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs** are used to collect a sample from the area between your nose and upper throat.
- These swabs can be used to test for viruses (e.g., **COVID-19**, flu, RSV) and bacteria.

BEFORE YOUR TEST

Tell the tester if you have any of the following.

- Nose or sinus problems
- Recent nose injury or surgery
- Medication to thin your blood
- A blood clotting disorder
- Questions about the test

Wear your mask to the testing site.

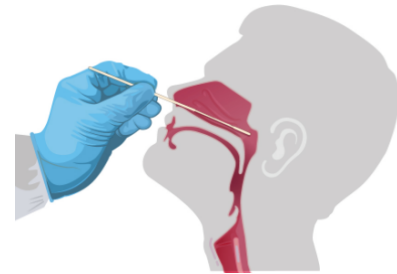


Your tester will wear a medical mask, gloves, a gown, and a face shield.



DURING YOUR TEST

- Keep your mask on until the tester asks you to take it off.
- The tester will use a long, thin, flexible swab to collect the sample.
- You will tilt your head back, if possible.
- The tester will place the swab **through one nostril towards the back of your nose.**



- The swab will be **inside your nose for 10-15 seconds.** The tester will turn the swab.
- The tester might place the swab in your other nostril if they do not get enough sample from your first nostril.
- You might feel **discomfort** during the test and your eyes might tear up, but you should not feel pain. Closing your eyes can help with discomfort.

AFTER YOUR TEST

- You might feel discomfort in your nose.
- You might have a nosebleed, but this is not common.
- If you were tested because you have COVID-19 symptoms or had close contact with someone with COVID-19, **stay home while you wait for the result.** People with a positive test have to stay home for 10 days after symptoms started or the positive test (if no symptoms). **People with close contact but no COVID-19 symptoms have to stay home for 14 days after their last exposure, even if the test is negative.**