

COVID-19 testing is available for all Georgians

What does my test result mean?

If you have tested positive for COVID-19, whether you had symptoms or not at the time of testing, please visit <https://dph.georgia.gov/isolation-contact> to obtain isolation guidance and return to work recommendations. (Should we state we have separate return to work guidance for HCW—and provide a link to that guidance?)

If you have tested negative for COVID-19, you should consider these results in combination with your symptom and exposure history.

- If you have tested negative and you have symptoms of COVID-19: A negative test usually means you do not have a COVID-19 infection. However, it is possible that early in the course of your illness, you may not test positive. Therefore, you should still follow recommended isolation precautions for those who are positive for COVID-19 above. If your illness continues or gets worse, consider calling your healthcare provider.
- If you have tested negative and you do NOT have symptoms: A negative test means you were probably not infected at the time your sample was collected. However, it is possible that you could be infected with SARS-COV-2 but with levels too low to be detected by the test or you are too early in the course of your illness for a positive test. It is possible to be infected and infectious to others without having symptoms of the virus. **Therefore, a negative test does not mean that you do not have or that you will not get the virus. You should still take precautions to protect yourself and others including following social distancing, hand hygiene, and cough etiquette guidelines.**
 - If you have a known exposure to a COVID-19 case: You should continue to quarantine for 14 days after your last known exposure and pursue additional testing if symptoms develop. If you do not develop symptoms, but wish to pursue additional testing, this should be done after your quarantine period has ended.
 - If you do NOT have a known exposure to a COVID-19 case: You should still take precautions to protect yourself and others including following social distancing, hand hygiene, and cough etiquette guidelines and pursue additional testing if symptoms develop. If you do not develop symptoms, but wish to pursue additional testing, this should be done at least 14 days from your last negative test.