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 guidelines.

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 you may be infected, but are too early in the course of your illness to test positive. Therefore, you should still follow recommended isolation precautions for those who are positive for COVID-19 [https://dph.georgia.gov/isolation-contact](https://dph.georgia.gov/isolation-contact). 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, the virus that causes COVID-19, 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.

If your test is inconclusive for COVID-19, it means that a small amount of viral DNA was identified but it was not enough to test positive. Your sample will need to be collected again and retested to get accurate results. In the meantime, you should treat this as a positive result for COVID-19. Therefore, 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 guidelines.
If your test was not completed for COVID-19, it means your sample was not able to be tested at the laboratory for some reason. Reasons for not testing may include failure to collect the specimen properly, specimen was mislabeled, problems in transport to laboratory, incorrect data, etc. This does not mean you don't have COVID-19. Your sample would need to be collected again and retested to get accurate results.