

PCR Viral Testing

for COVID-19



WHAT IS A PCR VIRAL TEST?

A viral test involves a nose or mouth swab to test for the presence of COVID-19 virus or SARS2-CoV.

A cotton swab is placed in either your nose or in your mouth.

The swab will come into contact with the back of your throat or back of your nasal passage to obtain a sample.



WHAT DOES THE TEST TELL YOU?

The test detects virus or pieces of virus to identify if you are infected with COVID-19 and are shedding virus. This means you are contagious even if you don't have symptoms.



WHY ARE YOU TESTED?

If you test positive for COVID-19 but have no symptoms, we can take steps to protect you, the staff, and other residents in the building.

We can also watch more closely for symptoms of illness and provide treatment for you more quickly.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF TESTING?

The test has little risk. You may feel a gagging sensation during the test. Gathering the sample may be uncomfortable during the swabbing process but shouldn't be painful. This discomfort should go away quickly after the test is finished. Some people experience a nosebleed for a short time after the test.

References:

John's Hopkins University

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/testing>

Center for Disease Control @ Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/index.html>

