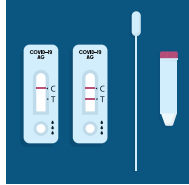
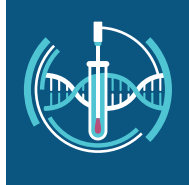


ANTIGEN VERSUS PCR TEST

Here's a comparison of antigen versus PCR COVID-19 tests so that you can determine the best test to meet your needs.

	 COVID-19 ANTIGEN TEST	 COVID-19 PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) TEST
How it Works	Detects bits of proteins on the surface of the virus called antigens	Tests for the presence of the actual virus's genetic material or its fragments as it breaks down
When to Use	For clearance of infection after known positive case; for use before attending events or gatherings; not as sensitive for early phase COVID-19 detection which can lead to false negative	For early or initial detection of COVID-19 or confirmation of an at-home positive antigen test; for testing before an event or gathering; cannot be used for 90 days after a confirmed positive case of COVID-19
Where to Use	At-home	Cannot be performed at home; requires a medical laboratory
How Long for Results	Typically 15 to 30 minutes	Typically 24-36 hours, but some service locations are faster and others slower
Accuracy	Most accurate when used within a few days of start of symptoms	Most reliable and accurate for detecting active infection
Sensitivity	Less sensitive than PCR test	Very sensitive; considered the gold standard
Also Known As	At-home test or rapid test	Diagnostic or point-of-care test
Availability	Buy at retailers; recently offered free from US Postal Service	Receive through doctors, pharmacies, mass testing sites, hospitals, etc.