

COVID-19 Testing FAQ



- ◆ **What does a COVID-19 test entail?** A simple nasal swab is all that is needed to test for COVID-19.
- ◆ **How long does the testing process take?** From the time that you enter and exit the testing site, you can anticipate spending up to 15 minutes. However, the nasal swab itself only takes seconds to complete.
- ◆ **How long will it take to get the results?** Specimens are processed at a local lab in Grand Rapids and results are typically sent back to the Health Department within 24-48 hours.
- ◆ **Will I be notified or will my employer be notified of my results?** The Health Department will notify both the employee and a specified member of your department/agency with results.
- ◆ **What if I test positive?** A member of the Health Department will notify you of your results and provide guidance in accordance with the CDC recommendations for isolation. Please see the attached document on guidelines for isolation. You are also encouraged to contact your employer for internal policy guidance on how these recommendations are implemented within your specific department/agency.
- ◆ **What if I test negative?** A member of the Health Department will notify you of your results. If you test negative, it is important to understand your results represent your status at a specific point in time when the test was performed. It does not imply immunity.
- ◆ **Will I need to be re-tested?** Re-testing is often not reliable as some people will continue to test positive for weeks following their initial test. However, if you develop new symptoms 4-6 weeks after your positive diagnosis, the decision to re-test can be made on a case by case basis. You will need to follow up with your primary care physician.