COVID-19
Rapid Antigen Test FAQ

Who can use a home antigen test?
This test is FDA emergency use authorized for home use with self-collected anterior nasal swab (NS) specimens from individuals ages 14 years and older or with adult-collected anterior NS samples from individuals ages 2 years or older. If an individual is less than 2 years old, COVID-19 PCR testing is recommended.

This test is free and distributed by the U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) through North East Medical Services (NEMS) to ensure and expand free and accessible testing to the community. It is not authorized for re-sale.

What should I do if I test POSITIVE?
* Take a photo of your positive test result to document it, and show your provider.
* Contact your provider to discuss isolation procedures and potential treatment.
* NEMS Pharmacy has COVID-19 antiviral medication available for patients at increased risk for hospitalization.
* Notify close contact(s) of COVID-19 exposure.

1. Especially if you have symptoms and are over 65 years old or have chronic medical problems.

What should I do if I test NEGATIVE?
* If you continue to experience COVID-19 like symptoms: 1) repeat antigen test or seek molecular/PCR test to confirm COVID-19 negative status and 2) follow-up with your healthcare provider.
* If you have no symptoms after a possible or known COVID-19 exposure, consider a repeat antigen test or seek molecular/PCR test (ideally 3 to 7 days from exposure).

When should I use a home antigen test?
If you are experiencing COVID-19 like symptoms:
* Fever or chills
* Cough
* Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
* Fatigue
* Muscle or body aches
* Headache
* New loss of taste or smell
* Sore throat
* Congestion or runny nose
* Nausea or vomiting
* Diarrhea

If you have possible or known COVID-19 exposure.
If you need COVID-19 testing for school, work, travel, event requirements, or before seeing a vulnerable person.
**STEP 1**
Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before you start testing. Check test kit and prepare a sanitary setup to lay out all components. It is helpful to have a clock, watch or timer available.

**STEP 2**
Insert nasal swab ½ to ¾ inch into a nostril. Rub the swab in a circular motion around the inside of the nostril at least 4 times. Repeat on the other nostril with the same swab. To avoid specimen contamination, do not touch the swab tip to anything other than the inside of the nostril.

**STEP 3**
Remove and place the swab into the liquid at the bottom of the tube. Stir the swab 3 to 4 times and leave it in the tube for at least 1 minute but no more than 10 minutes.

**STEP 4**
Remove the swab and insert the test strip into the tube with the arrows pointing down for at least 10 minutes but no more than 15 minutes.

**STEP 5**
Remove the test strip from the tube and place it on the test strip outline to check results. The results are invalid after 15 minutes. A positive result must show BOTH a blue line and a pink line (just below the blue line). Even if you see a very faint pink line, this is a positive test result. A negative result will show a blue line only.

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**Positive Result**

**Negative Result**

**Invalid Result**

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Source: Quidel QuickVue At-Home OTC COVID-19 Test Instructions. [https://quickvueathome.com/](https://quickvueathome.com/)