

Who Should Be Tested for COVID-19 and Where You Can Get a Test

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health recommends COVID-19 testing for people with fever and cough or shortness of breath if symptoms are severe or worsening, and for those with symptoms who:

- Are over age 50.
- Have medical conditions that might increase the severity of the infection, including diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, kidney disease or immunocompromising conditions.
- Live or work in a facility with other people (nursing home, college dormitory, prison, shelter).
- Are healthcare workers.

Testing is **not** recommended for:

- People who do not have symptoms of COVID-19 (no fever, or cough, or shortness of breath).
- People who are only mildly sick.
- People who are otherwise healthy and are not feeling short of breath or experiencing worsening cough and fever. People who are sick but do not need testing should stay at home away from other people until their symptoms are better. Read our [guidance on home care during quarantine or isolation](#).

Testing Sites

If you think you should be tested for COVID-19:

- Start with your regular medical provider or the hospital system where you last received medical care. Call or contact them over the internet so that a medical professional can evaluate whether testing is appropriate for you.
 - Penn Medicine: call COVID-19 Hotline at (267) 785-8585 or go to their [website](#).
 - Jefferson: use [JeffConnect](#) for a virtual doctor's visit and testing referral if indicated or go to their [website](#).
 - Temple Patient Triage Hotline: (215) 707-6999 or go to their [website](#).
 - Einstein Hospital: (800) 346-7834 or go to their [website](#).
 - Children's Hospital of Philadelphia: (800) 879-2467 or go to their [website](#).
 - Mercy Health COVID-19 Hotline: (215) 748-9204.
 - Mainline Health Contact Center: (866) 225-5654 or go to their [website](#).
 - PHMC: (855) 887-9229 or go to their [website](#).
 - City Health Center patients can call (215) 685-2933.
 - Many Federally Qualified Health Centers and other clinics also offer testing. Call before going to the clinic.

If you are not able to get tested through your medical provider, you can be tested at a public testing site:

- **Health Department Walk-Up Site**
 - Hours: Daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - To be tested here, you must be a healthcare worker or first responder, OR have symptoms of a fever and new onset of cough and be over 50.
 - This site is available by appointment ONLY. Call 267-491-5870 for a referral.
- **Rite Aid, 7401 Ogontz Ave., 19138**
 - Hours: Daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - To be tested here, you must be a healthcare worker or a first responder AND have symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
 - Before getting tested here, you must register at www.riteaid.com. Click on the red COVID-19 testing banner at the top of the page to register.
- Bring your driver's license or PHL City ID and insurance card (if you have one). Persons will NOT be turned away due to lack of insurance or documentation, and the test will be done at no cost.
- Note that these sites ONLY perform testing. If you have a worsening cough, shortness of breath, or fever over 101 for more than three days, please seek medical attention from your primary care provider, an urgent care clinic, or a hospital emergency department (call in advance to tell them you have symptoms so they can prepare and wear a mask if possible).
- When traveling to a testing site, wear a surgical mask over your nose and mouth. If you do not have a surgical mask, wear a scarf over your nose and mouth.

Getting Your Test Results

If you were tested at a location that is **not** a hospital or City health center (for example, Citizen's Bank Park or a pharmacy), you should be able to get your test results on the laboratory's patient portal.

[Bioreference Laboratories](#)

[LabCorp](#)

[Quest Diagnostics](#)

- Depending on what laboratory performs your test, it may take 2-6 days to learn your results. During that time, get rest, stay hydrated and stay at home, away from all people while you have symptoms. Read our [guidance on home care during quarantine or isolation](#).
- Monitor for symptoms – if you feel short of breath or have a worsening cough or persistent fever (over 101 for more than 3 days or over 100.4 for more than 5 days), call your doctor or go to a hospital emergency department.
- If you must be near other people, wear a cloth mask over your nose and mouth.

Visit www.phila.gov/COVID for more information • Text COVIDPHL to 888-777 to receive updates to your phone
Call (800) 722-7112 to speak to a health care professional on the Greater Philadelphia Coronavirus Helpline

Returning to Work

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health does not recommend that employers require testing prior to return to work for non-healthcare workers. Use of testing for this purpose diverts tests from use by people who are very sick. It may also be falsely reassuring.

People with symptoms of possible COVID-19 infection should stay home for at least 7 days AND until they have been free of fever without anti-fever medicines like Tylenol for 72 hours AND respiratory symptoms (if any) are improving.