

COVID-19 Rapid Testing with Abbott ID NOW: What Community Members Need to Know

Testing for COVID-19 helps identify positive cases and protect family and community members who are most at risk from being exposed to COVID-19. Identifying and responding to positive cases is one of the most effective ways to slow the spread of this disease and reduce the number of COVID-19 cases.

There are different kinds of tests that someone can get if they think they have COVID-19. Recently, the Indian Health Service (IHS) distributed the Abbott ID NOW instrument and rapid testing kit to tribal nations and federal service units. **The rapid test results are available the same day the test is given. The rapid test is given by nasopharyngeal, nasal, or throat swabs. The ID NOW test kits are limited, so your healthcare provider might suggest a different kind of COVID-19 test.**

What is COVID-19 (Coronavirus disease-19)?

Coronaviruses are a type of virus (germ) that can cause cold-like symptoms and sometimes serious problems with lungs and breathing. COVID-19 is a novel (new) coronavirus. People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness.

Symptoms include:

- **Cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, runny nose, diarrhea, and nausea/vomiting.**

If you experience any of these symptoms, contact a healthcare provider. **If you have trouble breathing, call 911.**

Can everyone in the community receive the ID NOW test?

No. This test is not intended for mass testing. Currently there are limited test kits. The tests should be used for people most in need of testing.

Who can get tested with ID NOW?

Contact your healthcare provider to know if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Healthcare providers will follow CDC guidelines that prioritize testing within three levels:

- 1) **Hospital patients, healthcare workers, and first responders with symptoms.**
- 2) **Individuals with symptoms who are at highest risk of serious illness or complications** (e.g. residents of long term care facilities, those over 65 years of age, those with conditions like heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, etc.).
- 3) **People with symptoms in communities with growing numbers of cases, in order to decrease the spread of COVID-19 and to keep essential workers healthy.**



Image source: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/28/politics/coronavirus-swabs-supplies-shortage-states/index.html>

How accurate is the test?

Some reports have shown that the ID Now tests have more incorrect results than other COVID-19 tests. Abbott has figured out a cause of these incorrect results and has told healthcare providers what to do to prevent them from happening.

What does a negative test mean?

For most people, a negative test means that they don't have COVID-19. For a small number of people, the test may be falsely negative. To prevent spread of COVID-19, patients with negative test results who have symptoms of COVID-19, or have been in close contact with someone known to have COVID-19, should be treated the same as those who test positive. If an individual has a negative test but has had close contact with someone with COVID-19, they still require 14-day period of quarantine from the date of last contact because they may become infectious or develop disease.

What does a positive test mean?

For most people, a positive test means that they have COVID-19. Their healthcare provider will give them care instructions and guidelines for self-isolation. Their healthcare provider will tell them when to stop self-isolation.

For a small number of people, the test may be falsely positive. This could have them incorrectly thinking they may be protected from getting COVID-19 in the future.

Whether someone gets a negative or positive result, it is important for people to continue practicing guidelines on social distancing and hand washing. Help keep our communities safe and decrease the spread of COVID-19.



Updated November 30, 2020.

For more information: [CDC.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus), [IHS.gov/coronavirus](https://www.ihs.gov/coronavirus)