

# PCR VS RAPID ANTIGEN TEST

## PCR TEST

## RAPID ANTIGEN TEST

ABOUT THE TEST	PCR TEST	RAPID ANTIGEN TEST
WHEN TO USE THIS TEST	<p>Best for early diagnosis of an infection, even in people who do not have symptoms. <b>Results are given within 24-72 hours. A highly accurate and sensitive test.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ When you start developing COVID-19 symptoms.</li> <li>✓ You had close contact exposure to someone with COVID-19 <b>at least 5 days ago.</b></li> <li>✓ You are symptom-free and <b>need a negative test result to attend a social gathering or event.</b></li> <li>✓ You are traveling soon or have recently traveled and you do not have symptoms <b>(This test satisfies most travel requirements).</b></li> <li>✓ You need to confirm the results of a rapid antigen test.</li> </ul>	<p>Best for quickly identifying individuals with symptoms who may be contagious to others. <b>Results are given within 15 min. Less sensitive but very accurate when someone is more likely to be contagious.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ You want to check if you are still contagious <b>before exiting COVID-19 isolation.</b></li> <li>✓ <b>You want quick results prior to a social gathering or activity</b> when you are symptom-free.</li> <li>✓ You have recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days but <b>you are experiencing new symptoms.</b></li> <li>✓ You have symptoms and cannot get access to timely PCR testing <b>(If your first test is negative, a second test is recommended 24-48 hours later to confirm your result).</b></li> <li>✓ You are returning to campus after break.</li> </ul>
WHEN TO <i>NOT</i> USE THIS TEST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ If you have had COVID-19 in the past 90 days (You may continue to receive a positive result even after you are no longer contagious).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ For travel requirements per travel destination and CDC.</li> <li>✗ For entry to some businesses or events requiring proof of a negative test</li> </ul>