
COVID-19 Swab (Molecular/PCR) Test

National Jewish Health offers a COVID-19 Swab (Molecular/PCR) Test, serving patients as needed, and businesses in the community. We are no longer offering testing by physician referral or to the general public.

What is a COVID-19 diagnostic test?

The COVID-19 test is used to diagnose the presence of the COVID-19 virus by testing a swab sample in a diagnostic laboratory.

How do you get ready for the COVID-19 test?

There is no special preparation for a COVID-19 diagnostic test. You must have a testing appointment that is scheduled in advance.

Please bring your photo identification and insurance information (if applicable) to your appointment. You will be asked to sign a consent form at the testing station.

What is done during the test?

When you arrive we will explain what will happen before, during and after the test. If you have questions, please ask.

The test involves analyzing a nasopharyngeal specimen. This is a nasal swab to collect a sample from the top of the throat, behind the nose. This test is administered with a long, cotton swab stick that will be inserted gently into your nose. This can be uncomfortable, but the collection process is very fast.

The sample is then placed into a vial and sent to our on-site diagnostic laboratory for testing.

How long will the test take?

The test itself should take no more than five minutes. You will be scheduled for a testing window. You may arrive any time during that assigned window. We continually work to minimize wait times within assigned testing windows.

Where is the testing location?

This test is done on our campus at 1400 Jackson St., Denver, CO 80206.

How will you receive your test results?

Most test results are available within 24 hours of specimen collection. Whether you were referred by a physician or self-referred for the test, your results will be provided to you and your physician by phone or through our secure patient portal. If you have a positive result you will receive a call.

If you have any questions you can contact our scheduling team at 303-398-1355. Visit njhealth.org for more information about COVID-19.

Visit our website for more information about support groups, clinical trials and lifestyle information.

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NOTE: This information is provided to you as an educational service of National Jewish Health. It is not meant to be a substitute for consulting with your own physician.

National Jewish Health is the leading respiratory hospital in the nation. Founded 123 years ago as a nonprofit hospital, National Jewish Health today is the only facility in the world dedicated exclusively to groundbreaking medical research and treatment of patients with respiratory, cardiac, immune and related disorders. Patients and families come to National Jewish Health from around the world to receive cutting-edge, comprehensive, coordinated care. To learn more, visit njhealth.org.