

COVID-19 Swab (Molecular/PCR) Test

National Jewish Health is offering COVID-19 testing to our patients who have a physician's referral. Patients can receive a referral from their non-National Jewish Health doctor or through a visit at National Jewish Health.

What is a COVID-19 diagnostic test?

Your doctor has referred you for a COVID-19 diagnostic test. This 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 physician referral and 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?

Patients are tested at a temporary structure outside the main hospital on our campus at 1400 Jackson St., Denver, CO 80206.

NOTE: Our main entrance off of Colfax is currently closed due to construction. Please enter campus off of 14th Avenue (one way going east), between Garfield and Jackson Streets.

How will you receive your test results?

Most physicians and patients will receive test results within 24 hours of specimen collection. We will contact your physician with results as well as provide them to you directly. You may receive results by phone or through our secure patient portal.

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 119 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.