# COVID-19 Testing Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEST TYPE</th>
<th>COLLECTION METHOD</th>
<th>PROS</th>
<th>CONS</th>
<th>AVAILABILITY</th>
<th>RECOMMENDED POPULATIONS TO BE TESTED</th>
<th>COST</th>
<th>EXAMPLES OF TESTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Molecular (PCR): Individual Lab | • Nasopharyngeal swab  
• Nasal swab  
• Oropharyngeal (back of throat) swab  
• Saliva | • The most accurate diagnostic test currently available  
• It can take several days for patients to receive results  
• Higher price point than other testing options | | • Widely available to the general public  
• Available at Atrium Health PCPs, Urgent Cares and through Employer Solutions | • Symptomatic patients  
• Asymptomatic patients (with medical recommendation)  
• People from historically marginalized populations who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19  
• People who are at higher risk for severe illness | $$$ | • Roche Cobas SARS-CoV2  
• Luminex NxTAG CoV Extended Panel Assay  
• Abbott m2000 Real-Time SARS-CoV-2  
• DiaSorin Molecular Simplexa COVID-19 direct assay |
| Molecular (PCR): Individual Rapid | • Nasopharyngeal swab  
• Nasal swab | • The most accurate diagnostic test currently available  
• Tests can be processed in <1 hr  
• Doesn’t require a lab | • Higher price point than other testing options | • Very limited availability at Atrium Health; reagents are in short supply | • Symptomatic patients  
• Asymptomatic patients (with medical recommendation)  
• Triaging individuals with respiratory symptoms in an Emergency Department or similar setting  
• Correctional facilities, long-term care facilities or other high risk, congregate settings where active cases have been confirmed and are part of an outbreak investigation | $$$ | • Cepheid Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2  
• Mesa Accula SARS-CoV2 test |
| Molecular (NEAR): Individual Rapid | • Nasopharyngeal swab  
• Nasal swab  
• Oropharyngeal (back of throat) swab | • Ultra-fast test results within 5-15 mins  
• The ID NOW machine also has the ability to test for flu  
• Doesn’t require a lab | • Possibility of false negative test results | • Widely available to the general public  
• Limited availability at Atrium Health | • Symptomatic patients  
• Asymptomatic patients (with medical recommendation) | $$ | • Abbott ID NOW COVID-19 test |
| Antigen: Individual Rapid | • Nasopharyngeal swab  
• Nasal swab | • Test results are provided in <20 mins  
• Doesn’t require a lab  
• Relatively inexpensive | • Higher chance of false negative and false positive test results  
• Not recommended for asymptomatic testing, population-based surveillance studies, or the screening of healthcare workers, emergency responders, and other essential personnel | • Not widely available to the general public | • Symptomatic patients  
• Triaging individuals with respiratory symptoms in an Emergency Department or similar setting  
• Off hour testing in hospital settings when the patient will benefit from a rapid result and the lab will repeat the test by another method when available  
• Correctional facilities, long-term care facilities or other high risk, congregate settings where active cases have been confirmed and are part of an outbreak investigation | $ | • Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card  
• Quidel Sofia 2 SARS Antigen FIA  
• LumiraDx SARS-CoV-2 Ag Test  
• BD BD Veritor System |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serologic: Individual Lab</td>
<td>Blood draw</td>
<td>• Specimen collection is invasive</td>
<td>• Not recommended to diagnose a current COVID-19 infection</td>
<td>• Widely available to the general public</td>
<td>• People with a history of COVID-like illness</td>
<td>$$</td>
<td>• Abbott Alinity i SARS-CoV-2 IgG</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Available at Atrium Health PCPs, Urgent Cares and through Employer Solutions</td>
<td>• Children with suspected Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS-C)</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Roche Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 Cobas</td>
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<td>• People who have taken a molecular test and continue to present symptoms of COVID-19 9-14 days after when symptoms start</td>
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<td>• To identify potential convalescent donors (serum donors)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serologic: Individual Rapid</td>
<td>Fingerstick blood draw</td>
<td>• Test results are provided in &lt;20 mins</td>
<td>• Not recommended to diagnose a current COVID-19 infection</td>
<td>• Not widely available to the general public</td>
<td>• People with a history of COVID-like illness</td>
<td>$$</td>
<td>• Assure Tech Assure COVID-19 IgG/IgM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Less invasive fingerstick collection method as compared to the serologic lab test</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Not currently available at Atrium Health</td>
<td>• People participating in research studies</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Abbreviations**

- NEAR: nicking endonuclease amplification reaction
- PCR: polymerase chain reaction

Current as of November 23, 2020