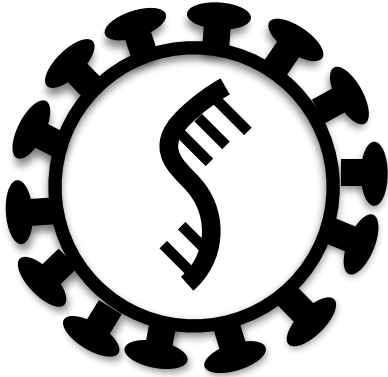


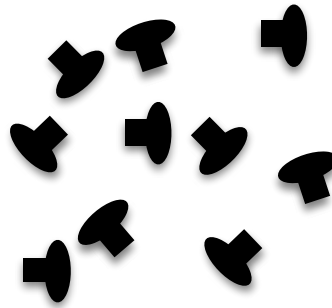
# FAQs About COVID Testing Types

## What are the different kinds of COVID tests?



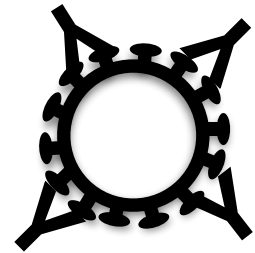
### PCR or Molecular Tests

- Tests for **current** infection
- Detects the “brains” of the virus
- Gold standard, **preferred** test type
- **Highest** accuracy, sensitivity, and specificity
- **Your child's school district may require a PCR/molecular test.**
- Requires a sample from the nose or mouth
- Usually gives results in 1-5 days, but some facilities offer rapid results



### Antigen Tests

- Tests for **current** infection
- Detects the “skin” of the virus
- **Less** accurate, sensitive, and specific
- **Negative results should be confirmed by a PCR/molecular test.**
- **Positive results may also need to be confirmed by a PCR/molecular test**, but those individuals may still be treated as positive COVID cases.
- Requires a sample from the nose or mouth
- Usually gives rapid results



### Antibody Tests

- Tests for **past** infection
- Detects the human body's response to the virus
- Interpretation of results is unclear at this time
- Should **not** be used to decide if individuals can return to school or be released from isolation
- Requires a blood sample

Ask your school about which test they require. A negative antigen test may need to be confirmed by a negative PCR/molecular test so consider getting the PCR/molecular test first.

## Where should I get my child tested?

## Always ask your pediatrician first!

You may also refer to one of the resources here:

- Interactive map of testing sites in Massachusetts: <https://bit.ly/32g76Yo>



- List of sites in Massachusetts by city: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/ma-covid-19-testing-sites/download>



- “Stop the Spread” cost-free testing sites in Massachusetts: <https://www.mass.gov/stophespread>



Source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health August 2020 (<https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-testing-guidance/download>)