



COVID-19 Testing Resources for Children

Types of COVID-19 tests

- A viral test can show if a person has a **current COVID-19 infection**. There are two types of viral tests that are used to diagnose COVID-19: nucleic acid amplification tests (NAATs/PCR) and antigen tests. These tests check if someone with symptoms is infected with the COVID-19 virus. They are also used for screening people who do not have symptoms. These are nasal swab or saliva tests.
- An antibody test (also known as a serology test) might show if a person has been infected in the **past**. It is a blood test. An antibody test cannot tell if someone currently has COVID-19.

Make sure you know what kind of test you are getting. If you need a test to meet a school, venue, or sports league requirement, make sure that it is the right test to meet their requirements.

Where to get a test



If your child has symptoms, it is best to get a test from their doctor or local health center. Call 2-1-1 or visit [211LA](https://211LA.org) if you need help finding a doctor. You can also find a health center near you by entering your zip code on [the HRSA.gov website](https://www.hrsa.gov/covid19/testing).

There are many places to get a test:



- **A pharmacy.** Many pharmacies offer free COVID-19 viral tests. Call or visit the website for details.
 - **Walmart** with [Quest Diagnostics](https://www.questdiagnostics.com) – for ages 2 and up
 - [CVS Health](https://www.cvs.com) and [Walgreens](https://www.walgreens.com) – for ages 3 and up
 - [Rite Aid](https://www.riteaid.com) – for ages 4 and up
 - **Independent pharmacies** – visit doineedacovid19test.com



- **Your child's school or youth sports league.** Many schools and school districts provide free COVID-19 testing to students, employees, and volunteers. Contact your child's school or sports league to see if testing is available and how to access it.



- **A County-sponsored testing site.** These sites offer free PCR tests to anyone who lives in LA County, regardless of immigration status. Many sites test children of any age. Children under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult who may be asked to collect the sample. Visit covid.19.lacounty.gov/testing to find sites that test children or require an appointment. If you need help, you can also call 2-1-1 to arrange a test.



- **A non-County testing site.** Some sites are run by private companies, private healthcare systems, or local cities, and these sites are not vetted by LA County.
 - They may offer testing for children. Ask about age limitations.
 - They may charge for a test. Ask in advance if there are any charges or fees.
 - They also may ask for information such as a government ID or insurance.



At-home tests

Home collection kits – you collect the sample and it is tested in a laboratory.

PCR test kits are available for people ages 4+ who live in LA County and have symptoms or think they were exposed to COVID-19. Results are usually available 24-48 hours after the lab receives the test. The kits, testing, and mailing are all free through a County program:

- **Order a kit online.** The kit is sent to your home by mail, and you return it by mail to the lab.
- **Pick-up a test kit** from a location within LA County. Collect the sample at home or in your car and return it to the same site.

For details, visit covid.19.lacounty.gov/testing.

Self-tests - you collect the sample and do the test yourself. Results usually take 15-30 minutes.

- **Order free tests from COVIDtests.gov.** You can get 4 free rapid tests per household by mail.
- **From a pharmacy, online, or a store** such as a supermarket or big box store.

Most people with health insurance can get rapid self-tests **at no cost**. Contact your health plan for instructions. If you go to a store and they don't take your insurance keep your receipts. Most health plans will reimburse some or all of the cost. Most pay for up to 8 at-home tests per month for each person on the plan. For details, see [CMS at home over the counter webpage](#).

TIP! Check the [FDA's website](#) to see if your test is authorized. Some self-tests may have age limitations. For information on home test kits, visit the [CDC self-testing website](#).



Beware of COVID-19 testing scams and fraud

The Federal Trade Commission has information on [how to avoid buying fake test kits online](#) or get tricked into using [scam test sites](#).

Visit the DPH [COVID-19 scams and fraud webpage](#) to find out about common COVID-19 scams and fraud.

If you think you found a fake COVID-19 pop-up site or bought a fake COVID-19 test, please report it to the **Department of Consumer and Business Affairs** at bit.ly/DCBAHelp or **1-800 593-8222**.

For more information about COVID-19 tests and what your results mean, visit ph.lacounty.gov/covidtests.