

COVID-19 Testing and Potential Uses

What type of sample is tested?

Usually a nasal swab.



What do these test results mean?

If **virus is detected**, the test is positive; this means the person tested **has COVID-19**.



What does this mean?

A **person** who tests **positive** needs to **self-isolate** and monitor their illness in case they need medical treatment.

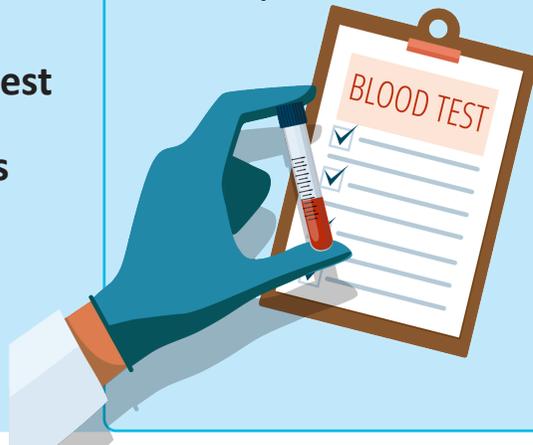
Public health conducts **case management and contact tracing** for positive cases.

Information about cases of COVID-19 helps **inform decisions** about the response to the pandemic, including **outbreak management, testing criteria, and emergency measures**.



Molecular test to detect the virus

Blood sample



Serology test to detect antibodies

If **antibodies are detected**, the test is **positive**; this means the person tested **previously had COVID-19**



Having antibodies **may** mean that the person has immunity and is protected against re-infection from the virus, but **more research is needed**.

Data about who has had COVID-19 can help **inform public health and other governmental decisions, including how and when to loosen emergency measures**.

