**THIS IS A SAMPLE FORM: REVIEW AND REVISE AS NEEDED.**

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**Version 12/4/20**

**Information for individuals receiving a SARS-CoV-2 test**

***If you have questions or would like to discuss the information provided, please talk to your primary care provider.*** More information about COVID-19 can be found at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention CDC websites: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html> and  <https://www.coronavirus.gov/>

**What is COVID-19?**

COVID-19 is caused by the SARSCoV-2 virus. The virus can cause mild to severe respiratory illness. Symptoms include cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat or new loss of taste or smell. Some people who are infected have no symptoms.

## Why am I being tested for COVID-19?

## Your healthcare provider believes you may have been exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19 based on your signs and symptoms.

## You live in or have recently traveled to a place where transmission of COVID-19 is known to occur.

## You have been in close contact with an individual suspected of or confirmed to have COVID-19.

## You are scheduled for a medical procedure and testing is recommended as a way to keep healthcare staff and other patients safe.

## Types of COVID-19 tests

## Viral Testing: This test takes samples from the respiratory system (such as nasal or oral swabs or saliva) to determine if the SARS-CoV-2 virus is present. A viral test is used to diagnose infection in individuals who have symptoms and those who do not have symptoms.

## Antibody Testing: This test looks for antibodies in the blood that may tell if you had a past infection with the virus that causes COVID-19. Antibodies are proteins that help fight off infections and may provide protection against getting that disease again (immunity).

**What are the known and potential risks and benefits of the test?**

Potential risks:

* Possible discomfort in the area where the sample is collected.
* There is a chance that this test can give a positive result that is wrong (a false positive result).
* There is a chance that the test can give a negative result that is wrong (a false negative result).

Potential benefits:

* Test results can help your healthcare provider make informed recommendations about your care.
* The results may help limit the spread of COVID-19 to your family and others in your community.

**When will I receive the test results?**

This depends on the type of test. A rapid test will give results in about 15 minutes. Tests that need to be sent to a lab will be returned within 1 to 3 days.

**What do the test results mean?**

 **Positive** **viral test**:

* It is likely you now have COVID-19.

 **Negative** **viral test** *may* mean:

* You are not infected
* You’re in the early stages of infection (a false negative)
* You’re in the recovery stage of an infection
* You’ve had a past infection and are not currently infected

 **Positive antibody test:**

* You’ve had COVID-19 in the past and you have developed antibodies to the virus

 **Negative** **antibody test**:

* Antibodies to the virus that cause COVID-19 were not found in your blood
* You are in the early stages of infection
* Negative results do not rule out SARS-CoV-2 infection, especially if you’ve been in contact with the virus
* Results from antibody testing should not be used as the only basis for determining infection status

**What should I do when I receive the results?**

* ***Contact your primary care provider to discuss the results and next steps.***