

# Difference between tests

## Rapid RT-PCR vs PCR Lab vs Rapid Antigen



	Rapid PCR (RT-PCR)	PCR Test (LAB)	Rapid Antigen
<b>DETECTS</b>	VIRAL GENETIC MATERIAL, THROUGH MULTIPLE AMPLIFICATION CYCLES IN PCR TESTING	VIRAL GENETIC MATERIAL, THROUGH MULTIPLE AMPLIFICATION CYCLES IN PCR TESTING	PROTEIN(S) FROM A VIRUS PARTICLE
<b>SAMPLE TYPE</b>	NASAL SWAB	NASAL SWAB	NASAL SWAB
<b>TURNAROUND TIME</b>	SAME-DAY	(Average of) 2-4 DAYS	SAME-DAY
<b>SENSITIVITY AND SPECIFIVITY</b>	GENERALLY, HIGHLY SENSITIVE AND HIGHLY SPECIFIC	GENERALLY, HIGHLY SENSITIVE AND HIGHLY SPECIFIC	GENERALLY, HIGHLY SPECIFIC, BUT LESS SENSITIVE THAN MOLECULAR TESTS
<b>LABORATORY OR CLINIC</b>	AUTHORIZED FOR USE IN-CLINIC	SWAB TAKEN IN-CLINIC WITH RESULTS SENT TO A LAB	AUTHORIZED FOR USE IN-CLINIC
<b>TYPICALLY USED FOR:</b>	PRIMARILY FOR TRAVEL & PRE-OP	RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS, SCREENING, PRE-OP	KNOWN EXPOSURE, HAVING RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS



**AGES 6 & BELOW:  
WE OFFER THROAT SWABS.**  
( THROAT SWABS ARE LESS ACCURATE THAN NASAL SWABS.)

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