



Student Health Services

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

COVID-19 Testing FAQ

Faculty/Staff

GENERAL INFORMATION

What kind of COVID tests are being offered?

- **Texas A&M University COVID tests:** available to all TAMU students, faculty and staff.
 - o **Antibody blood/serology test (\$):** available for a minimal charge at Student Health Services; determines the likelihood of a previous COVID-19 infection
 - o **Mouth swab/PCR:** self-collect mouth swab funded by Texas A&M University System and provided by Curative, Inc.; determines an active COVID-19 infection
 - o **Nasal swab/PCR (\$):** self-collect nasal swab available for a minimal charge at Student Health Services; determines an active COVID-19 infection
 - o **Saliva sample:** self-collect saliva sample funded by Texas A&M University System; non-diagnostic COVID test

Which test should I choose?

- Mouth swab and saliva sample are funded by Texas A&M University and free of charge.
- Antibody blood/serology test and nasal swab are available at Student Health Services for a minimal charge. Insurance will be billed for these tests. Insurance may cover the cost in full, but it is encouraged to check with your insurance provider before scheduling the test.

If I think I have been exposed to COVID, when should I get tested?

- **If you choose to get tested:** it is generally recommended that an individual waits at least five to seven days after exposure to get tested. The incubation period for COVID can be 5-14 days. Waiting until at least day three after exposure will increase the reliability of the test. While awaiting your testing date/time, please follow the CDC guidelines regarding what to do if you are sick/think you may be sick: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>.
- **If you choose to not get tested:** if you do not develop any symptoms, but had a confirmed close contact (less than 6 feet for a cumulative total of 15 minutes in 24 hours), it is advised that you quarantine for 10 days following your last contact. If you develop symptoms within your quarantine, consider making an appointment with your primary care provider to discuss next steps.

How effective are the COVID tests?

- **Antibody blood/serology test and nasal swab test:** PCR tests are approximately 90% accurate. PCR tests are most accurate at day 5-7 after a confirmed close contact with an infected individual.
- **Mouth swab tests:** Curative, Inc. has stated the sensitivity at >90%.



Student Health Services

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Where can I get a COVID test?

- Appointments are required for the following test options: antibody blood/serology test, mouth swab, nasal swab.
 - o Antibody blood/serology and/or nasal swab appointments at Student Health Services: <https://shs.tamu.edu/appointments>.
 - o Mouth swab appointments via Curative: <https://tx.ag/covidtest>
- Walk-ups are available for saliva sample option.
- For additional information regarding COVID testing options, locations and availability, please visit <https://www.tamu.edu/coronavirus/testing-locations/index.html>.

NOTICE REGARDING STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES TESTING OPTIONS: Within the clinic, low risk patient testing is performed in a clean room with enhanced disinfection while maintaining at least a 6 foot physical distance from staff and other patients. Limited parking for SHS COVID testing is available in Lot 27 for clients at this time. It is recommended that individuals utilizing SHS and/or the testing tent park in Lot 30E.

Can I get tested for COVID more than once?

- You can get tested for COVID more than once, if needed.

How often is testing available?

- Antibody blood/serology and nasal swab tests: available in Student Health Services Monday – Friday, 8am – 4:15pm
- Mouth swab and saliva sample tests: find testing availability online at <https://www.tamu.edu/coronavirus/testing-locations/index.html>.

What should I do if I miss my assigned testing appointment?

- If you missed your testing appointment, please schedule another appointment.

If there is inclement weather, will my appointment be cancelled?

- Appointments will not be cancelled unless the individual cancels his/her appointment in advance.

What guidance is there for sick/exposed campus members?

- If you are sick and/or had a potential exposure to COVID, visit the Texas A&M University COVID page for detailed guidance: <https://www.tamu.edu/coronavirus/sick-campus-members/>.

Who should I contact if I have any questions?

- For questions regarding the COVID reporting process, contact COVID19Process@tamu.edu.
- For questions regarding delayed/missing test results, contact covidtest@tamu.edu.



Student Health Services

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

- For general questions regarding SHS COVID testing, please contact Patient Services at patient-services@shs.tamu.edu or (979) 458-8310.

COST

Is there a cost associated with COVID testing?

- **Texas A&M University COVID tests:**
 - o Antibody blood/serology test (\$): available at Student Health Services; pricing outlined below
 - o Mouth swab/PCR: funded by Texas A&M University System
 - o Nasal swab/PCR (\$): available at Student Health Services; pricing outlined below
 - o Saliva sample: funded by Texas A&M University System; non-diagnostic COVID test
- SHS COVID tests: There is a charge associated with SHS testing, yet insurance may reimburse fully or partially for the cost of the test. Please contact Patient Services at (979) 458-8310 for more information.
 - o *COVID Antibody: \$120 (effective 03/15/2020)*
 - o *COVID – PCR: \$150 (effective 03/15/2020)*
 - o *COVID – PCR / Influenza A&B: \$120 (effective 11/02/2020)*

SYMPTOMS

If I have COVID symptoms, should I get tested?

- **Texas A&M University COVID tests:** available for symptomatic and asymptomatic patients. Please note that symptoms may be due to influenza or other respiratory illnesses. If you are experiencing symptoms, it is recommended that you consider making an appointment with your primary care provider.

What should I do if I think I may be positive and am awaiting results?

- If you have a positive close contact or you have symptoms, please follow quarantine instructions from the CDC. Find these instructions here:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

WHAT TO EXPECT

What will the testing process look like?

- **Texas A&M University COVID tests:**
 - o Antibody blood/serology test:
 1. Schedule an appointment online: <https://shs.tamu.edu/appointments>
 2. Check in at the health center prior to your appointment time. You will be directed to visit the appropriate clinic area. Wait times will vary.



Student Health Services

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

3. During your appointment, you will receive a blood draw from an SHS phlebotomist. Collection typically takes less than 5 minutes.
 4. Results will be communicated through the SHS Patient Portal.
- Mouth swab/PCR:
 - Register online to get a testing time window: <https://tx.ag/COVIDtest>.
 - Watch the video sent to your registration email to learn about the collection process.
 - Check in at the testing site during your testing window. A number of physical controls have been implemented to ensure your safety. Every individual is physically distanced by 6 or more feet if there is a line and every individual must wear face covering unless they are actively testing. The 6 feet separation is maintained and monitored during the whole process.
 - You will be guided by staff regarding how to properly self-collect your sample. The entire collection process typically takes less than 5 minutes.
 - Results will be sent to your email.
 - Nasal swab/PCR:
 1. Schedule an appointment online: <https://shs.tamu.edu/appointments>.
 2. Check in at the health center prior to your appointment time. You will be directed to visit the appropriate clinic area. Wait times will vary.
 3. During your appointment, you will be guided by staff regarding how to properly self-collect your anterior nasal swab sample. This involves inserting a small swab less than an inch into each nostril. The entire collection process typically takes less than 5 minutes.
 4. Results will be communicated through the SHS Patient Portal.
 - Saliva sample:
 - Check in at the testing site during the available time options. A number of physical controls have been implemented to ensure your safety. Every individual is physically distanced by 6 or more feet if there is a line and every individual must wear face covering unless they are actively testing. The 6 feet separation is maintained and monitored during the whole process.
 - You will be guided by staff regarding how to properly self-collect your sample. The entire collection process typically takes less than 5 minutes.
 - Results will be sent to your email.

NOTICE REGARDING MEDICAL TENT TESTING LOCATION: If your testing site is at the medical tent located in the SHS parking lot, this tent is a negative pressure isolation medical shelter whose environment meets or exceeds the CDC guidelines for treating airborne viruses like COVID-19 and seasonal flu. Negative pressure air means a lower air pressure is inside the tent compared to the air outside. This difference in pressure allows the outside air to flow into the tent after it passes through the sanitation and filtering process. The air in this tent is replaced with sanitized, filtered air approximately every four minutes. By the time you complete your testing, the air has already been replaced at least once.



Student Health Services

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

RESULTS

How long do results take, and how can I access them?

- Results can take 36-48 hours during the week, but there may be a delay on tests done late in the day on Fridays.
 - o **Antibody blood/serology test and nasal swab test results:** Results will be sent to you from an SHS medical provider via secure message on the SHS Patient Portal.
 - o **Mouth swab test results:** Results are sent to the email you provided during registration, and will be sent from Curative, Inc.
 - o **Saliva sample test results:** Results are sent to the email you provided during registration.
- NOTICE REGARDING MOUTH SWAB TEST RESULTS: If you have not received your results within 48 hours after your test date/time, confirm that the contact information included when you registered for a testing window is accurate. If your contact information is correct, please email covid@tamu.edu.

What should I do while I await my test result?

- If you believe that you may have the virus or have been exposed to the virus and choose to get tested, while you await your test result the CDC advises to stay home and monitor your health (stay away from others during this time), think about people you have recently been around, and answer the phone call from the health department if they call. Find detailed information here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/3key-steps-when-waiting-for-COVID-19-results_508.pdf.
- If you were tested as part of a return to campus or employer recommended testing program, please limit interaction with others until you receive your results. Continue to wear a mask, stay at least 6 feet from others, wash your hands, avoid crowds, and take other steps to **prevent the spread of COVID-19**.

What happens if I receive a positive test result?

- If you get tested and receive a positive test result:
 - Make an appointment with your primary medical provider if you would like to further discuss your specific condition.
 - Seek emergency medical care immediately if you show any of these signs: trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, bluish lips or face.
 - For now, stay in isolation in your residence and away from other people. Follow the CDC guidance for home isolation. Representatives from the Department of State Health Services or TAMU COVID Operations Center will be calling soon. Their number may indicate "unknown" on your phone, but go ahead and answer it. They will give you more information about isolation duration and also ask about your close contacts. Gather the following information to have ready when they call: how you may have been exposed, recent attendance at events (gyms, bars, salons, events such as houses of worship,



Student Health Services

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

sporting events, classes), household members, and close contacts (less than 6 feet for a cumulative total of 15 minutes in 24 hours).

- You are required to self-report to the university through the **COVID Reporting Portal**. This act of Selfless Service will help the university to understand and control the virus on campus and also give you help through the Division of Student Affairs.

What happens if I receive a negative test result?

- If you tested negative (test must occur day 5 or later after exposure), and are showing no symptoms, please note the following:
 - SARS-CoV-1 was not detected in your specimen. You should not immediately act as though you are free of COVID-19.
 - If you had been quarantining, it is recommended you can end quarantine according to the CDC and local guidelines.
 - Continue to watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure.
 - If you begin developing symptoms, immediately self-isolate. Consider scheduling an appointment with your primary care provider to discuss next steps.
 - Continue to wear a mask, stay at least 6 feet from others, wash your hands, avoid crowds, and take other steps to [prevent the spread of COVID-19](#).