



Student Health Services

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

COVID-19 Testing FAQ

GENERAL INFORMATION

Which COVID tests are being offered?

- The below tests are 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 Curative nasal swab/PCR: self-collect nasal swab funded by Texas A&M University System; determines a COVID-19 infection
 - o SHS nasal swab/PCR (\$): self-collect nasal swab available for a minimal charge at Student Health Services; determines an active COVID-19 infection

Which test should I choose?

- Curative nasal swab and saliva sample are funded by Texas A&M University and free of charge.
- Antibody blood/serology test and SHS 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. Any remaining balances not covered by insurance or for uninsured patients will be paid for by Texas A&M University funding. An SHS medical provider will follow up with the patient and assist in his/her care before and after results are available, and will be able to answer any questions the individual may have regarding COVID-19.

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

- Visit the CDC website for information regarding [when to test post-exposure](#).

Where can I get a COVID test?

- Appointments are required for the following test options:
 - o Curative nasal swab appointments: <https://tx.ag/covidtest>
 - o Student Health Services testing: Antibody blood/serology and/or nasal swab PCR (available via self-referral at the SHS Lab). Schedule your COVID test through our [Patient Portal](#).

COST

Is there a cost associated with COVID testing?

- Antibody blood/serology test (\$): available at Student Health Services; pricing outlined below
- Curative nasal swab/PCR: funded by Texas A&M University System
- SHS nasal swab/PCR (\$): available at Student Health Services; pricing outlined below



Student Health Services

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

- SHS COVID tests: There is a charge associated with SHS testing, yet insurance may reimburse fully or partially for the cost of the test. Any remaining balances not covered by insurance or for uninsured patients will be paid for by Texas A&M University funding. Please contact Patient Services at (979) 458-8310 for more information.

Student Testing Prices:

- o COVID Antibody: \$100 (effective 03/15/2020)
- o COVID Spike Antibody: \$75 (effective 10/20/2021)
- o COVID – PCR: \$112 (effective 09/01/2021)
- o COVID – PCR / Influenza A&B: \$100 (effective 09/01/2021)

Faculty/Staff Testing Prices:

- o COVID Antibody: \$120 (effective 03/15/2020)
- o COVID Spike Antibody: \$100 (effective 10/20/2021)
- o COVID – PCR: \$150 (effective 09/01/2021)
- o COVID – PCR / Influenza A&B: \$120 (effective 09/01/2021)

SYMPTOMS

If I have COVID symptoms, should I get tested?

- COVID tests are 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 an SHS medical provider. Schedule online here: <https://shs.tamu.edu/appointments>.

What should I do if I think I may be positive?

- If you have a positive close contact or are experiencing symptoms, please follow [Texas A&M University guidelines](#).

WHAT TO EXPECT

What will the testing process look like?

- Antibody blood/serology test:
 1. Schedule your COVID test through our [Patient Portal](#).
 2. When you arrive for your test, you will be directed to the SHS Lab. 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.
- Curative nasal swab/PCR:
 1. Register online to get a testing time window: <https://tx.ag/COVIDtest>.
 2. Check in at the testing site during your testing window. A number of physical controls have been implemented to ensure your safety.
 3. You will be guided by staff regarding how to properly self-collect your sample. The entire collection process typically takes less than 5 minutes.
 4. Results will be sent to your email.
 - SHS nasal swab/PCR:
 1. Schedule your COVID test through our [Patient Portal](#).
 2. When you arrive for your test, you will be directed to the SHS Lab. 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.

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 SHS nasal swab test results:** Results will be sent to you from an SHS medical provider via secure message on the SHS Patient Portal.
 - o **Curative nasal swab test results:** Results are sent to the email you provided during registration, and will be sent from Curative, Inc.

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, follow [Texas A&M University guidance](#).
- It is recommended that you 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. If you are unvaccinated, consider receiving the vaccine.



Student Health Services

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Currently enrolled students, faculty and staff can receive the COVID-19 vaccine and booster shots at SHS. Schedule an appointment here: <https://tx.ag/covidvaccine>.

What happens if I receive a positive test result?

- If you get tested and receive a positive test result:
 - o You will be contacted by phone, email, or secure message.
 - o 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.
 - o For now, stay in isolation in your residence and away from other people. Follow [Texas A&M guidance for home isolation](#).

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:
 - o SARS-CoV-2 was not detected in your specimen. You should not immediately act as though you are free of COVID-19 or other infectious conditions.
 - o Follow [CDC guidelines](#).
 - o Continue to watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure.
 - o If you begin developing symptoms, immediately self-isolate. Consider scheduling an appointment with an SHS medical provider (<https://shs.tamu.edu/appointments>) to discuss next steps.
 - o It is recommended that you 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.