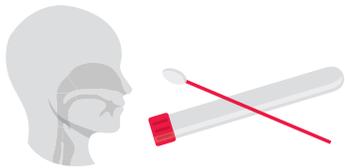


How Can We Test for SARS-CoV-2?

There are two types of SARS-CoV-2 tests: viral tests and antibody tests.

Viral Test



- Determines if a patient is currently infected with SARS-CoV-2; cannot determine if a person was previously infected.
- The samples tested are nasal or throat swabs, or saliva samples.
- The sample is tested either using a technique called PCR to determine whether the virus' genetic material is present or using other techniques that determine whether specific viral proteins, or antigens, are present.
- Antigen tests produce results more quickly than PCR tests, but they may be less sensitive.

Antibody Test



- Determines if a patient was previously infected with SARS-CoV-2; cannot determine if a person is actively infected.
- The samples tested are blood samples.
- The sample is tested to determine whether proteins called antibodies that the patient's immune system would have made during a previous infection with SARS-CoV-2 are present.