



COVID-19 Testing Resources for Children

Types of COVID-19 tests



- A viral test can show if a person has a **current COVID-19 infection**. There are two types of viral tests that are used to diagnose COVID-19: nucleic acid amplification tests (NAATs/PCR) and antigen tests. These tests check if someone with symptoms is infected with the COVID-19 virus. They are also used for screening people who do not have symptoms. These are nasal swab or saliva tests.
- An antibody test (also known as a serology test) might show if a person has been infected in the **past**. It is a blood test. An antibody test cannot tell if someone has COVID-19 currently.

Make sure you know what kind of test you are getting. If you're getting a test to meet a school, venue, or sports league requirement, check to make sure it is a viral test.

Where to get a test

If your child has symptoms, you should contact your child's doctor or local health center.

Call 2-1-1 or visit [211LA](#) if you need help finding a doctor. You can find a health center near you by entering your zip code on the [HRSA.gov website](#).

If your child is well but needs a test, in addition to your child's doctor or local health center, you can go to one of the sites listed below.



- **An LA City or LA County testing site.** These sites offer free COVID-19 testing to anyone who lives in LA County, regardless of immigration status. There are no age limits to who can be tested at LA City and County sites. Children under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult. The accompanying adult may be asked to collect the sample on the child. Appointments are not always needed but are encouraged to reduce wait times. Visit covid.19.lacounty.gov/testing or call 2-1-1 to arrange a test.



- **A pharmacy.** Many pharmacies offer free COVID-19 viral tests. Call or visit the website of your local pharmacy for details and to make sure that the age limits have not changed.
 - **Walmart in partnership with [Quest Diagnostics](#)** – for children ages 2 and up
 - **[CVS Health](#)** – for children ages 3 and up
 - **[Walgreens](#)** – for children ages 3 and up
 - **[Rite Aid](#)** – for children ages 4 and up
 - **Independent pharmacies** doineedacovid19test.com



- **Your child’s school or youth sports league.** Many schools and school districts provide free COVID-19 testing to students, employees, and volunteers. Contact your school or sports league to see if testing is available and how to access it.

At-home tests



- At-home tests are available by prescription or over the counter in many pharmacies, supermarkets, and big box stores.
- If you are considering using home test kits for required testing, make sure they are accepted by the school or venue. The results of home tests cannot be used to end quarantine early or to prove that your child doesn’t have COVID-19.
- Be aware that home tests are not usually covered by insurance unless they are prescribed by a doctor. For information on home test kits, visit the [CDC self-testing website](https://www.cdc.gov/self-testing/).

Beware of COVID-19 testing scams – visit the DPH [COVID-19 scams and fraud webpage](#) to find out about common COVID-19 scams and fraud.

For more information about COVID-19 tests and what your results mean, visit ph.lacounty.gov/covidtests.