Why Get a COVID-19 Test If I Am Asymptomatic?

What is asymptomatic testing?

Such testing is done on people who have no symptoms and who are not close contacts of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. It often involves rapid tests, where results are received quickly. If positive, however, it is a good idea to confirm your positive result with a QPCR laboratory test (which takes longer but may be more accurate). Tests for asymptomatic individuals are not available everywhere, so it is a good idea to contact your local health care professionals to see if this is available in your community.

Why is testing asymptomatic individuals important

- To allow for rapid detection of COVID-19, and enable quick isolation, testing, and management of suspected cases
- To enable quick detection to contain outbreaks among vulnerable populations
- To understand the impact of the pandemic on local healthcare systems and the community
- Many of those infected with COVID-19 are asymptomatic or have yet to develop symptoms, but can still spread the virus.
- Screening of those without symptoms or known COVID-19 contacts can be important to identifying infected individuals early and breaking the chain of infection.

- To monitor the spread and intensity of COVID-19 in a community
- To understand the severity of COVID-19 and spectrum of illness
- To understand risk factors for severe cases of COVID-19 disease and transmission
- To monitor for changes in the virus that causes COVID-19

You play an important role

You can help protect yourself and your community by participating in asymptomatic testing where it is available, getting tested when you have symptoms of COVID-19, and by cooperating with health officials who are conducting contact tracing and cluster investigations.


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