

4: Will serial (repeat) testing be required when COVID-19 antigen tests are used on an asymptomatic individual?

A: Yes. COVID-19 antigen tests will now be authorized by the FDA for use on asymptomatic individuals when tested at least three (3) times over five (5) days with at least forty-eight (48) hours between tests. If an asymptomatic individual has a negative COVID-19 antigen test result, a second COVID-19 antigen test needs to be performed with at least forty-eight (48) hours between the first and second test. If the second test is positive, a third test is not required. If the second test is negative, a third test needs to be performed with at least forty-eight (48) hours between the second and third test.

5: Is there a summary that describes how COVID-19 antigen tests should be used and interpreted when testing symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals?

A: Yes. The table below gives an overview of how serial testing needs to be done on symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals and what the results mean.

At-Home/Over the Counter COVID-19 Testing Recommendations				
Symptomatic Individuals (COVID-19 symptoms present)	First Result* Day 1	Second Result Day 3	Third Result Day 5	Final Result/Interpretation
	Positive	N/A	N/A	Positive for COVID-19
	Negative	Positive	N/A	Positive for COVID-19
	Negative	Negative	N/A	Negative for COVID-19
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *The first test should be taken immediately if you have symptoms of COVID-19. The second test should be taken if first test is negative with at least 48 hours between the first and second test. 			
Asymptomatic Individuals (Exposed to COVID-19 but no COVID-19 symptoms present)	First Result* Day 1	Second Result Day 3	Third Result Day 5	Final Result/Interpretation
	Positive	N/A	N/A	Positive for COVID-19
	Negative	Positive	N/A	Positive for COVID-19
	Negative	Negative	Positive	Positive for COVID-19
	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative for COVID-19
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *The first test should be taken 5 days after a known exposure (day 0 = last known exposure). The second test should be taken if the first test is negative with at least 48 hours between the first and second test. The third test should be taken if second test is negative with at least 48 hours between the second and third test. 			

For more information, please visit: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/understanding-home-otc-covid-19-antigen-diagnostic-test-results>. The most current at home/OTC test instructions may be accessed at <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/home-otc-covid-19-diagnostic-tests#list> or on the brand/manufacture's website. Free community COVID-19 testing locations can be found at <https://testinglocator.cdc.gov/>.

6: Do the new requirements for serial (repeat) testing impact all COVID-19 tests?

A: No. The requirements for serial testing apply to point of care (POC) and at-home over the counter (OTC) COVID-19 antigen tests. The new requirements do not apply to non-antigen based COVID-19 tests such as COVID-19 molecular (also known as "PCR" or "NAAT" tests) and antibody tests.