COVID-19 Testing

Today you were tested for COVID-19. COVID-19 is a highly spreadable disease caused by the SARS-Cov-2 virus. Symptoms of this virus can range from mild to severe and may include cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, and a new loss of taste or smell.

What does a positive result mean?

A positive result means that you have COVID-19.

If you test positive but are not experiencing any symptoms, you should not come to campus. You should also contact your healthcare provider and self-isolate for at least 10 days, as long as you remain symptom free. You should continue to monitor for symptoms and if symptoms do develop, discuss these symptoms along with any treatment or other recommendations, with your healthcare provider.

What does a negative result mean?

A negative test result means that the virus that causes COVID-19 was not found in your sample. In a person experiencing illness symptoms at the time the sample was collected, this usually means that COVID-19 did not cause the illness.

It is possible for this test to give a negative result that is incorrect in some people with COVID-19. Your healthcare provider will consider the test result together with any symptoms and possible exposures in deciding how to best care for you.

It is also possible for this test to give a negative result when tested very early during the infection. If at any time you develop symptoms, you should contact your healthcare provider.

Keep in mind that a negative result does not mean that you cannot still acquire COVID-19 infection in the future.

How can I help to prevent the spread of COVID-19?

- Keep a safe distance (at least 6 feet apart) from others
- Avoid touching your mouth and eyes
- Wash your hands often, using soap and water and washing for at least 20 seconds
- Wear a mask when indoors and when in close contact with others
- Always cover your cough
- Stay home when you are feeling sick
- Monitor yourself for symptoms and use the daily QuickScan to report them

How do I get my results?

If your test results are negative, you will receive an email indicating ‘you are cleared to be on campus and are not precluded from continuing to come to campus.’ University Health Services will contact you by phone if your result is positive. You may come to campus while you await results unless you have COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. If you have not heard anything after 5 business days, you may call the Health Center at 410-704-2466 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to request your result.

Edited 9/14/2020