

COVID-19 Rapid Testing is Now Available at Our Office

We are pleased to announce that our Quidel device has arrived, enabling convenient, rapid SARS2 Antigen FIA testing for Coronavirus. Please read the following FAQs for an overview. As always, please call our office with questions.

How should I make an appointment for a COVID-19 test?

Please call our office and schedule a nurse appointment. We are strict about walk-ins at this time.

What is the turnaround time to get the results?

You will be notified within 1 hour of testing. There is no need to wait.

How is the test performed?

The lower nasal swab is used, which is more comfortable and causes less eye watering than the RNA swab.

How sensitive and specific is the test compared to other COVID-19 tests?

The sensitivity is 85% in symptomatic patients. Specificity is 97%, meaning a positive result is likely a true positive.

Please see the Quidel SOFIA Fact Sheet for more details.

Does a negative test mean I'm cleared to go out?

No, a negative test does not rule out infection. Repeat testing and/or RNA PCR nasal swab test is advised. Remember that SARS2 incubates from 2 to 14 days; the median time is 5 days. Repeat and frequent testing that returns negative raises the sensitivity of the results. PCR testing is the gold standard for accurate COVID-19 results but was not intended for large-scale testing, and cannot meet the current unprecedented volume demands or need for more rapid turnaround times.

What is the cost of the test?

There is a flat cost of \$75.00 due at time of testing. The front desk will provide you with an automated bill that you may submit to your insurance. Please know that as we first roll out this testing, we are making this available only to our member patients because we have limited supplies for testing. We will continue to order supplies as demand increases, but please keep in mind there may be delays in receiving them.