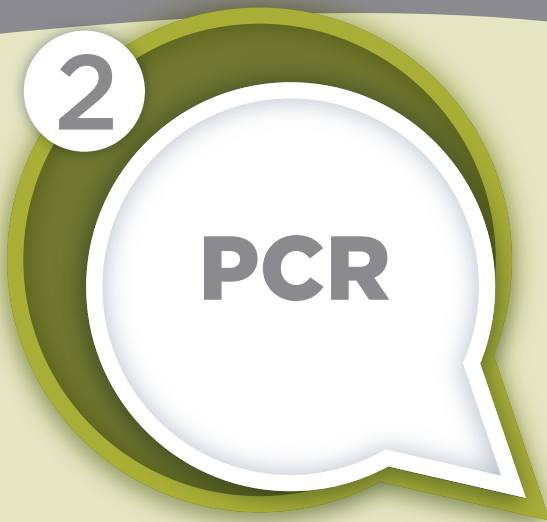


2 types of COVID-19 tests

both are looking for the active virus



An antigen is any substance your body does not recognize that triggers it to produce an immune response

description

It's a molecular test using a lab technique called polymerase chain reaction.

Looks for specific proteins on the virus's surface

how it works

Detects the virus's genetic material

Nasal swab - just inside the nose

test

Nasopharyngeal swab - farther back in the nose

Called a "rapid" test - results delivered in four hours or less.

speed

Results delivered in one to two days

Very accurate positive results. Small chance for a "false negative" - past the sixth day of symptoms, this test is less able to find evidence of the virus.

accuracy

Considered the gold standard for accuracy. So sensitive it can find pieces of the virus long after symptoms are gone and the person is no longer contagious.

- Symptoms for five days or less
- Need fast results
- Prefers less invasive swab

when to choose

- Symptoms longer than six days
- To confirm results from a previous test
- Need "the gold standard" of accuracy

Your child's primary care provider can decide the right one for you.