COVID-19 TESTING FAQS

1. Where can I get tested for COVID-19?

For an interactive map of testing locations and details for Northern Kentucky, please visit https://bit.ly/2T2Wrvx. For a list of testing locations in Kentucky, please visit https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19.

2. What are the types of COVID-19 testing?

Two types of tests are available for COVID-19 - viral tests and antibody tests:

- A **viral test** tells you if you are currently infected with COVID-19.
- An **antibody test** tells you if were previously infected with COVID-19.

An antibody test may not be able to show if you currently have COVID-19, as it can take 1-3 weeks after infection for your body to create antibodies. We do not know yet if having antibodies for COVID-19 can protect someone from getting infected with COVID-19 again, or how long that protection might last.
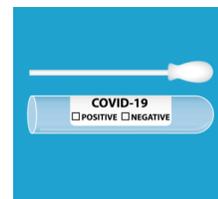
As of May 8, 2020, only viral testing is available in Northern Kentucky.

3. What can I expect when I get a test for COVID-19?

Viral testing for COVID-19 typically involves inserting a 6-inch long swab (like a long Q-tip) into the cavity between the nose and mouth (nasopharyngeal swab) for 15 seconds and rotating the swab several times. The swabbing is then repeated on the other side of the nose to make sure enough material is collected. The swab is then inserted into a container and sent to a lab for testing.

4. Who should be tested for COVID-19?

If you have had close contact with someone who has been diagnosed or tested positive for COVID-19, or have symptoms associated with COVID-19 (including fever, cough, and difficulty breathing), contact your health care provider, who can provide further guidance and instructions.

5. What happens if I test positive for COVID-19?

If you are tested for COVID-19, you will need to stay at home and away from others until you receive your results. If you test positive for COVID-19, you will need to remain at home away from others and will be contacted by your local health department. The local health department will determine if individuals with whom you have had close contact have been exposed to COVID-19, should monitor for symptoms, and stay at home. You must remain isolated until you are fever-free for 3 days without fever-reducing medication, your cough or shortness of breath is improving, AND it has been at least 10 days since your symptoms started.

6. What does it mean if I test negative for COVID-19?

If you test negative for COVID-19 by a viral test, you probably were not infected at the time your sample was collected. However, that does not mean you will not get sick. The test result only means that you did not have COVID-19 at the time of testing.

BOONE COUNTY
KENTUCKY

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

NKYHEALTH
NORTHERN KENTUCKY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

CAMPBELL
COUNTY | KY

KENTON
COUNTY