



COVID-19 Re-testing

May 20, 2021

I think my patient's test result is a false positive. Can I re-test?

- We generally recommend against re-testing a patient with a positive PCR result, even if they are fully vaccinated OR unvaccinated but asymptomatic.
- False positives may occur with any test, but there is no recommended procedure to determine that a PCR result is false. A negative test following a positive one does not prove that the positive result was wrong, as viral shedding may be intermittent. Therefore, isolation and quarantine requirements still apply.
- Fully vaccinated persons can get - and may transmit - COVID-19.
- Asymptomatic infection is a well-known driver of the pandemic.
- COVID-19 transmission continues at moderate levels in Alameda County, and most neighboring counties have similar transmission levels.
- We now generally recommend against COVID-19 testing for vaccinated persons without symptoms, unless they are tested as part of a required screening program (for example, work or school-related screening). These recommendations continue to evolve. Symptomatic persons should be tested regardless of vaccination status.

For information about when to confirm the result of an antigen test, please see our [Point of Care Testing Guidance](#) and [Addendum](#).