

When to Retest



Retest when...

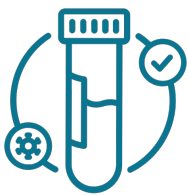
Your child has symptoms suspicious for COVID-19 (e.g., congestion, sore throat, cough) and tested negative by antigen test. Testing should be repeated 24 to 48 hours after the first test



Do not retest when...

Your child has tested positive, even if they don't have any symptoms. A positive test indicates a COVID-19 infection, and retesting is NOT recommended. Many people with COVID-19 test positive before they have symptoms, and some people with COVID-19 never have any symptoms at all.

If your child has tested more than once and gotten different results, any positive result means that they need to stay home for at least 5 days. They can return to school on Day 6 or later if they get a negative test result on or after Day 5.



Why would two tests have different results?

The amount of virus in an infected person's nose and throat can go up and down over time. Because of this, a test collected on two different days during COVID-19 infection may show different results. If specimens are collected using different techniques or if different labs are used, this can also cause different test results, even when infection is present. False positive molecular and antigen test results are unlikely when there are a lot of COVID-19 infections in the community

