

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/testing>

### Not everyone with COVID-19 symptoms needs a test or will be able to be tested.

- CALL OR EMAIL a telehealth line, nurseline, or your health care provider. If the provider recommends you get testing or care, follow the provider's advice BEFORE going into any health facility. Ask your provider about private lab sites where you can get tested.
- DO NOT go to an emergency room to get a test for COVID-19 unless you are having a medical emergency. For COVID-19, that means severe respiratory symptoms such as shortness of breath or breathing difficulties.
- DO call 911 or go to an emergency room if you are having a medical emergency. Tell the dispatcher your symptoms.

### Do you need a test?

Whether or not you are diagnosed with COVID-19, if you don't need to be hospitalized, your treatment will be the same, no matter the test result. Ideally, everyone who wanted a test would be able to get one, but right now, that is not possible.

### Why be tested for COVID-19?

- For people whose symptoms are severe enough to need medical treatment in a hospital, a positive or negative test result is important. The diagnosis helps the hospital decide what interventions the patient needs and where they should be assigned to stay in the hospital.
- A number of Colorado hospitals either can or soon will be able to test for and diagnose COVID-19 in-house, without having to wait for results from the state or a private lab.

### Does the state lab have any drive-up testing sites?

- Not at this time. The state lab currently must prioritize tests for critically ill people who need test results quickly, for people who work in health care and other facilities that serve high-risk populations, and when the state needs to monitor outbreaks in specific communities and long-term care or other facilities.
- If you have COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), consider a [telehealth visit or nurseline advice](#) before seeking in-person care. Ask your primary care provider if they offer telehealth visits, or call one of Colorado's nurselines.

### Some people may not need to be tested for COVID-19.

- People with mild early, mild symptoms (might include a combination of cough, body aches, fatigue, and chest tightness, with or without fever): [Self-isolate](#), and use over-the-counter medications to treat your symptoms -- like you would for a cold or other respiratory illness.
- People with more definite COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath): [Self-isolate](#), use over-the-counter medications, and, if you think you need medical advice, consider a telehealth visit or nurseline advice before seeking in-person care.

- **People with more serious symptoms, especially shortness of breath:** [Self-isolate](#), use over-the-counter medications and contact a health care provider if your illness becomes more severe. The provider may recommend you be tested for COVID-19, and should be able to instruct you on how to get a test.

**Letters for work must come from your doctor.** The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment does not have, and cannot provide, you with a letter clearing you to go back to work. If you had symptoms consistent with COVID-19, you should isolate yourself for 7 days after symptoms started, and continue isolating yourself until you are fever-free (without the use of fever-reducing medications) for 3 days. Public health is not requiring people to have a negative test to return to work. If your employer is requiring this, you may want to contact your doctor, or another health care provider, or direct your employer to this website.

### **Call 911 for:**

- Symptoms of heart attack or stroke.
- Difficulty breathing or choking.
- Difficulty speaking, walking, or seeing.
- An allergic reaction.
- Confusion, dizziness, or disorientation.
- Sudden, severe pain

### **Do not call 911 for:**

- Info about COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019).
- A ride to the doctor's office.
- COVID-19 testing
- Mild symptoms