COVID Testing De-Mystified

Rapid COVID-19 Antigen Testing

Antigen tests are a method of detecting an active infection with SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes the illness COVID-19. These tests look for antigens, which are proteins markers found on the outside of a SARS-CoV-2 virus.

The rapid nature of many of these tests, allow for results to be available in 15 minutes.

Rapid COVID-19 Antibody Testing

COVID-19 antibody testing is a way of determining if you have previously been infected with the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus.

Antibody testing is done with a blood sample and is also commonly referred to as "serology testing". Antibody may prove useful in patient populations with long-lasting or late-developing complications. It is additionally deployed during COVID research, to better understand the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 Molecular Testing

Molecular testing, also known as nucleic acid amplification tests (NAATs), look for genetic traces of SARS-CoV-2. By first making many copies of the genetic material in your sample, these tests find even very samll amounts of the virus's genetic material.

The most common type/well-known NAAT is called reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), which is sometimes referred to as PCR. This test method is considered the gold standard for the detection of the SARS-CoV-2 pathogen.

What is CLIA?

CLIA stands for the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 and is an amendment to the Public Health Services Act. To hold a CLIA certification means that you are licensed to process laboratory specimen under the section of federal regulations titled "Standards and Certification: Laboratory Requirements" issued by CMS. CLIA regulations establish quality standards for laboratory testing performed on specimens from humans, for the purpose of diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of disease, or assessment of health.

Surveillance

Surveillance is defined as ongoing systemic activities, including collection, analysis, and interpretation of health-related at a essential to planning, implementing, and evaluating public health practice. It is generally used to monitor for an occurrence, such as an infectious disease outbreak, in a population or community, or to characterize the occurrence once detected, such as looking at the incidence and prevalence of the occurrence .

Surveillance Testing

Surveillance testing may be random sampling of a certain percentage of a specific population to monitor for increasing or decreasing prevalence and determining the population effect from community interventions such as social distancing. The FDA does not generally regulate surveillance testing. If at any time a patient-specific result is to be reported, it must first obtain a CLIA certification.

What are you waiting for? Get Testing!

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https://labtestsonline.org/coronavirus-covid-19-testing
https://www.cdc.gov/clia/index.html
https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/faqs-testing-sars-cov-2

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