

Two major types of tests are available for COVID-19: PCR and Antigen



Lab-based PCR Testing

PCR testing is most effective option to **identify whether individual is infected**, but takes longer to receive a result

- Turnaround times generally 24-72 hours
- More sensitive test makes PCR the best option to identify cases early that are in early stage of infection or post infectious phase



Antigen Testing

Antigen testing is most effective option to **quickly identify whether individual is infectious**

- Results provided within 15 minutes
- Best option if patient expects contact with high-risk individuals over next 24-48 hours
- Lower sensitivity means some cases may not be detected if viral load is low