

COVID-19 CHEAT SHEET

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COVID-19 (SARS-Cov-2)

- ↓ SARS-Cov-2, the virus responsible for causing COVID-19, has infected over 23 million people and killed over 383,000 people in the United States during a 12-month time period.
- ↓ The virus is most commonly spread when an infected person spreads droplets into the air by sneezing, coughing, or talking.
- ↓ Covid-19 predominantly affects the Upper and Lower Respiratory Systems, which include our nose, throat, and lungs, but can also affect the brain and stomach and other parts of the body.
- ↓ As a result, most people infected with the virus experience symptoms such as: fever, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath, congested/runny nose, and poor sense of smell/taste. Most cases are mild, but it can result in severe illness requiring hospitalization and even cause death.

Covid-19? The Flu? Common Cold?

- The symptoms of Covid-19 are very similar to those of the flu and the common cold.
- Below are a few common characteristics of each

Covid-19 symptoms:

- ↳ Fever
- ↳ Shortness of Breath
- ↳ Persistent Cough
- ↳ Loss of smell/taste
- ↳ Vomiting/Diarrhea
- ↳ Body aches
- ↳ Fatigue
- ↳ Headache
- ↳ Sore Throat

Flu symptoms

- ↳ Fever
- ↳ Persistent Cough
- ↳ Vomiting/Diarrhea
- ↳ Body aches
- ↳ Fatigue
- ↳ Headache
- ↳ Sore Throat

Common Cold Symptoms

- Runny/stuffed nose
- Sneezing
- Persistent Cough
- Fatigue
- Sore Throat
- Headaches

Detection of Covid-19

- There are currently 3 tests that are associated with detection of Covid-19

- ↳ PCR Test

- ↳ Antigen Test

- ↳ Both of which are used to detect active infections of Covid-19

- ↳ Antibody Test

- ↳ Which cannot detect active infections of Covid-19 but can instead detect PAST infections of Covid-19

Detection of Active Covid-19 Infection

PCR Test

- ↳ PCR tests search for the presence of Covid-19's genetic material using a technique called Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction, or RT-PCR. Currently, this is the most accurate technique to detect a Covid-19 infection.
- ↳ The sample is collected via a nasal/throat swab or saliva
- ↳ The average turnaround time for COVID PCR tests is 2-4 days. Sometimes longer if there is an outbreak.

Antigen Tests

- ↳ Antigen tests, also known as Rapid COVID tests, search for the presence of antigens, a protein found on the surface of the virus.
- ↳ The sample is collected via a nasal swab.
- ↳ The average turnaround time for Antigen tests is 15 minutes.

Detection of a Past COVID-19 Infection

Antibody Test

- ↳ Antibody tests, otherwise known as an IgG test, search for the presence of Covid-19 antibodies.
- ↳ Antibodies are proteins that are produced by one's immune system in response to the presence of a harmful substance in the body.
- ↳ Antibody tests cannot diagnose a current COVID-19 infection because it can take 1-3 weeks for the body to develop antibodies.