COVID-19 self-tests (also referred to as home tests or over-the-counter tests) are a risk-reduction measure, along with vaccination and masking, that help protect you and others by reducing the chances of spreading the virus that causes COVID-19.

**Self-tests can be taken at home or anywhere, are easy to use, and produce rapid results.**

**You can use self-tests regardless of vaccination status or whether or not you have symptoms.**

Closely follow all of the manufacturer’s instructions for performing the test.

Consider using a self-test before joining indoor gatherings with others who are not in your household.

- **A positive self-test result** means that the test detected the virus, and you are very likely to have an infection and should stay home or isolate for 10 days, wear a mask if you could have contact with others, and avoid indoor gatherings to reduce the risk of spreading disease to someone else.

- **A negative self-test result** means that the test did not detect the virus and you may not have an infection, but it does not rule out infection. Repeating the test within a few days, with at least 24 hours between tests, will increase the confidence that you are not infected.

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