



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

When to use a home test for COVID-19:

- If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, test immediately, or
- If you are a close contact to an individual with COVID-19, test at least 5 full days after your last exposure (if you test negative, consider testing again in 1-2 days or if symptoms develop), or
- If you are going to an indoor event or gathering, test right before, especially if you will be in a county with a high COVID-19 Community Level ([CDC COVID Data Tracker: County View](#)). This is important if you will be around people at increased risk (65 + years for example), or people who are not vaccinated.

If you use your home test because you have symptoms:

- **If your test is negative:** Stay home until your symptoms have improved and you are fever free for 24 hours, even if your test is negative. See your medical provider for further evaluation and care as needed.
- **If your test is positive:**
 - You are likely infected.
 - Tell your healthcare provider or pharmacist. Treatment is available and is most effective when started early. Some pharmacies may also administer without a prescription. See the MSDH website for [Treatment for COVID-19 Infection - Mississippi State Department of Health \(ms.gov\)](#)
 - Stay home and isolate for at least 5 days.
 - After 5 days, if your symptoms are better and you have no fever, then you may return to normal activity on days 6-10 if you always wear a mask around others.
 - Tell your close contacts they may have been exposed to COVID-19.

If you use your home test because you were exposed to COVID-19:

- Any person exposed to COVID-19 should wear a mask for a full 10 days in public or around others and should get tested at least 5 full days after last contact even if you do not develop symptoms.
- If you develop symptoms after day 5, test again and see your medical provider for additional evaluation and care as needed.
- If you test positive, you should follow the isolation guidance for individuals with COVID-19.
- See CDC guidance [What to Do If You Were Exposed to COVID-19 | CDC](#)

Report Positive Results to MSDH

You are strongly encouraged to report a new positive home test result for yourself or someone in your household to the Mississippi State Department of Health. This helps improve our ongoing monitoring of COVID-19 activity in the community. Our online form is quick and simple to use: <https://apps.msdh.ms.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=DCPDNWJD3DNFECX3>

Additional Information:

- Guidance for individuals who are close contacts to someone with COVID-19: https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/9914.pdf
- Guidance for individuals with COVID-19: https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/9915.pdf
- Additional information from CDC regarding Isolation and Exposure can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>