

## What is the difference between a rapid COVID-19 test and a full COVID-19 test?

### A rapid COVID-19 test

- A rapid COVID-19 test (also known as an 'Lateral Flow' or 'rapid antigen' test) will come with a kit that can give you a result within 30 minutes. You record the result yourself. The photo shows what a home kit may look like.
- You can complete a rapid test at home, work, school or at a test site.
- This type of test is very good at finding out if a person is infectious now, and able to transmit the virus to others when they may not have symptoms. The level of sensitivity is high enough to detect the vast majority of these cases.
- You need to follow the instructions carefully to give an accurate result.
- **If you or your child complete one of these tests at home, and the result is positive, you will need to have a follow up 'full' test. This is because the test needs to be verified if the test has not been supervised by trained individuals.**



### A 'Full' COVID-19 test

- A 'full' COVID-19 test (also known as a 'PCR' test) is processed in a laboratory.
- You can take the swab sample for a 'full' test at a local testing site or at home, but the sample will be sent off and you will receive the result within 48 hours. The photo shows what a home 'full' test kit looks like.
- It is useful for confirming suspected cases of COVID-19 (where people are showing symptoms or have carried out a non-supervised/home rapid test).
- It is more sensitive than a rapid test and therefore will identify cases, even when their level of infectiousness is lower.



More information on testing (including how to book a test and access rapid testing kits) can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>