Coronavirus (COVID-19)

COVID-19 is a new infectious disease that can spread from person to person. It can cause symptoms, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, and loss of taste or smell.

To prevent infection and spread of COVID-19, please:

- Wear a mask or face covering.
- Maintain at least six feet physical distance between you and others.
- Avoid crowded places, particularly indoors.
- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water, or clean them with alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Stay home if you feel sick.

COVID-19 TESTS

Not all people who have COVID-19 feel sick. The only way to know if you have COVID-19 is to get tested. There are two main types of COVID-19 tests.

COVID-19 Nasal PCR Test

Looks for the virus that causes COVID-19 infection in your body.
- A positive PCR test means you have the COVID-19 virus right now. Contact your doctor for advice and stay home at least 10 days. Stay in a specific room and away from other people if possible.
- A negative PCR test means you do not have the COVID-19 virus right now.

The test sent to the lab is very accurate and usually takes 2-3 days for the result. Some test centers have the "rapid" test with results in 15 minutes, but are less accurate and can miss infections.

COVID-19 Antibody Test

Looks for antibodies in the blood to see if you already had COVID-19 infection.
- A positive antibody test means you have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus. It may provide protection from getting infected with the virus again. However, it is not known how strong this immunity is or how long it lasts.
- A negative antibody test means you do not have antibodies to the COVID-19 virus. It is unlikely you have had the COVID-19 virus. You do not have immunity and you can still get infected by someone who has COVID-19.

Get Tested!

If you need to get tested, do not hesitate to contact your health care provider, call 311, or (866) 692-3641 (NYCDOHMH) to find a city testing site. Make sure to learn about testing criteria, availability, and hours before you go.

To make an appointment at the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center or learn more about COVID-19 testing, please call the info line at (929) 362-3020, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., from Monday to Friday.

For information on various health topics, please visit www.cbwchc.org and click on “Health Resources”.