

What to Expect: Visiting a COVID-19 Saliva Testing Site Transcript

What to expect when you go to a COVID-19 saliva testing site.

First, be sure to not eat, drink, smoke, or chew anything 30 minutes before you submit your saliva sample. This includes not drinking water.

If you have them, bring a smartphone, an insurance card, and an active email address. If you don't have a smartphone, there are sanitized tablets on-site that you can use. If you don't have insurance, you can still get tested for free. You will not receive a bill. And if you don't have an active email address, staff can use a phone number to call and tell you your results over the phone.

You're encouraged to sign up for an appointment time, but walk-ins are also welcome.

When you arrive, follow the directions on the signs to either register or check in for your appointment.

The staff will ask you to change out your mask to a new surgical mask. This helps keep the facility as clean as possible.

The staff will ask if you need an interpreter and if you have a smartphone. Then they will give you a kit and bring you to a table.

You will use your smartphone to scan the QR code on the table. This brings you to the testing website where you can fill in your information. If you have any questions, staff are there to help you.

After you fill in your information, the website walks you through each step of the saliva test. You'll need to provide enough saliva to just beyond the line. Bubbles don't count. Tapping the container on the counter gets rid of bubbles so you can see how much more you have to fill.

When your container is filled to the line, you'll take off the collection funnel and screw on the cap with blue preservatives. Keep screwing on the cap until the divider between the blue preservative and your saliva sample cracks and you can shake the vial to mix the blue preservative and saliva together. Shake the vial for 5 seconds.

Finally, walk your vial to the submission table and throw away the packaging from the testing kit.

You'll get your results e-mailed to you within 48 hours. Or if you don't have an email, you'll get a call at the phone number you provided.

If you have any questions about the sample collection process, ask the staff at the saliva testing site.

Thank you for getting tested and helping to keep our communities safe!

Minnesota Department of Health
Communications Office
PO Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
651-201-4989
health.communications@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4989