
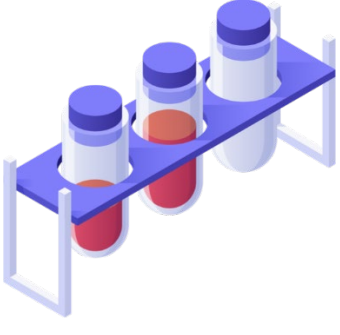


The Two Test Types

VIRAL TEST	SEROLOGY/BLOOD TEST
	



What is the test?

A viral test is an oral or nasal swab or saliva test that looks for **evidence of an active viral infection**. There are two major viral type tests: a PCR test and an antigen test.

A serology test is a blood test that looks for **evidence of someone's prior infection** with the virus.



What does the test do?

Viral PCR tests look for the **presence of a virus's genetic material**.

Viral antigen tests look for **specific proteins on a virus's surface**.

Viral antigen tests produce results more quickly but may be less sensitive.

The serology or blood test provides evidence that someone may have been exposed to the virus in the past, potentially even if they did not have symptoms, by **detecting antibodies specific to the virus**.



What doesn't the test do?

Viral tests do not indicate **whether someone was infected in the past**.

The antibody test does not **diagnose an active infection or identify who is protected from reinfection** (antibodies have not been proven to guarantee immunity).

FDA How does the FDA handle the test?

The FDA formally **evaluates viral tests prior to use**.

The FDA **does not formally evaluate antibody tests prior to use**, though a few have Emergency Use Authorization.