



Frequently asked questions about at-home COVID-19 testing

June 21, 2021

At-home COVID-19 tests are now available at some stores and pharmacies in Rhode Island. The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) is sharing these answers to commonly asked questions about at-home COVID-19 tests.

1. How do I report the results of my at-home COVID-19 test to RIDOH?

You can report a positive or negative result to RIDOH by calling the COVID-19 Info Line at 401-222-8022 and selecting option 6. Results should be reported within 24 hours after taking the test.

If you test positive on an at-home test, isolate at home and call your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will report your positive test result to RIDOH for you. If you do not have a healthcare provider, you can report your positive test result directly to RIDOH.

2. Am I required to report my at-home test results to RIDOH?

No. You are not required to report your at-home test result to RIDOH. RIDOH encourages you to report your at-home test result so the State can continue to track the spread of COVID-19. If you test positive, RIDOH can also connect you with resources to help you isolate.

3. Do I need to send a picture of my result?

You do not need to submit a picture of your test result to RIDOH.

4. Do I need to isolate if I get a positive result on an at-home COVID-19 test?

If you get a positive result on an at-home test, isolate at home and call your healthcare provider.

You need to isolate for 10 days from when your [symptoms](#) started. If you do not have symptoms, you need to isolate 10 days from the date you took your test.

If you do not have a healthcare provider, you can report your positive test result directly to RIDOH by calling the COVID-19 Info Line at 401-222-8022 and selecting option 6. Someone from RIDOH may contact you within a few days of reporting your result. To learn more about what to do if you test positive for COVID-19, visit covid.ri.gov/whattodo.



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5. Should I get a follow-up PCR test?

You should get a confirmatory PCR test if:

- You have [symptoms](#) of COVID-19 and you get a negative result on an at-home test.
- You do not have symptoms and you get a positive result on an at-home test.

You can get a confirmatory PCR test at any [State-run test site](#). You can schedule a PCR test online at portal.ri.gov or by calling 401-222-8022. Tests scheduled at State-run sites are free and insurance is not required. [Learn more about RIDOH's confirmatory testing protocol](#).

6. I am a close contact of someone who tested positive. Can I use an at-home test to shorten quarantine?

If you are a close contact of someone who tested positive, you cannot use an at-home test to shorten quarantine. Schedule a COVID-19 test at a State-run site online at portal.ri.gov or by calling 401-222-8022.

7. Can I get a letter from RIDOH confirming my positive result on an at-home test?

RIDOH will not provide letters verifying a positive result on an at-home test. A PCR test result is required to get a letter verifying your positive result and isolation status. You can schedule a PCR test at a State-run site online at portal.ri.gov or by calling 401-222-8022.

8. What should I do if I take multiple at-home COVID-19 tests and I get different results?

If you get a positive result on one or more of your at-home tests, you have COVID-19. Isolate at home and contact RIDOH or your healthcare provider to report your positive result.