

## COVID-19 Viral Test Information

## Workforce Health

As COVID-19 remains in the news and on the minds of employers and employees alike, Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin Workforce Health is providing answers to frequently asked questions about COVID-19 viral testing.

**The safety and well-being of our clients and their employees is always our top priority.** We have a process in place throughout our health network to screen individuals for COVID-19 and we are carefully monitoring information and following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

As always, one of the best prevention measures we can all take, regardless of your job, is to **practice proper hand hygiene**. Appropriate social distancing, wearing a face covering in areas where it is difficult to adhere to social distancing and practicing good cough and sneeze etiquette (covering your mouth and nose with a tissue, handkerchief or your elbow) are also good practices to follow. When at work, always follow your employer's guidelines in addition to these recommendations.

### What type of test is needed to determine if I currently have COVID-19?

- A COVID-19 viral test is needed to test for current COVID-19 infection. In a viral test, a swab is taken from the back of your nasal cavity by a licensed health care professional.

### How long will it take to get my results?

- Results are usually available within 24 hours. Occasionally the results may take longer depending on the time of day and day of the week that you received your test.

### How will I receive my results?

- Test results will be completed in 24-48 hours.
- **If your test is positive**, our staff will contact you to discuss your results and next steps.
- **If your test is negative**, you will not receive notification of the result. If you would like a confirmation of your result, please call 262-253-5150, option 2.

### Will anyone else know about my result?

- We are required to report all results to your local health department. If you test positive for COVID-19, your local health department will contact you to discuss your results and help determine if any household members or other close contacts need to be tested. If you test positive for COVID-19, your local health department will also contact your employer to determine if any of your co-workers need to be tested. If you signed a release to provide your results to your employer, your employer will receive your results. .
- If you test negative for COVID-19, your results will not be shared with anyone outside of your care team unless you signed a release to share your results with your employer.

## Workforce Health

### **Can someone test negative and later test positive on a viral test for COVID-19?**

- Yes, it is possible to test negative in the early stages of infection and test positive later as the infection progresses. You could also be exposed to and infected with COVID-19 after the test.
- Regardless of your test result, continue to take preventive measures to protect yourself and others.

### **If I tested negative for COVID-19, when can I return to work?**

- Unless you are being quarantined for exposure to a household contact or for travel reasons, you will be able to return to work immediately if you are fever-free, feeling well and able to perform your job duties.

### **If I tested positive for COVID-19, when can I return to work?**

- You should contact your employer to discuss returning to work and follow their instructions, which may be more specific than the following general guidelines:
  - You may return to work when you have had no fever for at least three days without using fever-reducing medication, your respiratory symptoms have improved, you are breathing more easily and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
  - If you have not experienced symptoms, you may return to work when at least 10 days have passed since your first positive test.

### **How accurate is the COVID-19 viral test?**

- Our test offers the highest level of accuracy available today. While no medical test is 100% accurate, the risk of a false negative or false positive is relatively low.

For further questions regarding your COVID-19 viral test completed by Workforce Health, please call 262-253-5150 (option #2).