**IMPORTANT INFORMATION: KEEP UNTIL YOU RECEIVE YOUR RESULTS**

**What Happens After Being Tested?**

**What to expect following your test:**

* **The specimen collection is sent to a lab for testing.**
* **Expect to wait at least 48 hours for results. In some cases, it may take a week or more.**
* **While you await results, self-isolate or quarantine as directed based on your current symptoms or recent exposure to someone sick with COVID-19.**
* **If you get seriously ill, call 911 or go to your nearest emergency room. Let them know before arriving that you may have COVID-19.**
* **The facility where your testing was performed will contact you with your results. A copy of your results will also be mailed to you. Please provide a copy of these results to your healthcare provider as needed.**
* **Use this information below to help you understand your results. If you have questions, call your healthcare provider or your local health department.**
* **If you test positive for COVID-19, you should receive a call from your local health department.**

**What Do Your Test Results Mean?**

**Throat/Nasal Test Results When You Have Symptoms**

**If you test negative for COVID-19**, you probably were not infected at the time your specimen was collected. However, some people test negative even when they are infected with the germ that causes COVID-19. This is called a FALSE-NEGATIVE test result. If your health care provider or the health department feels you could have COVID-19 disease even though your test is negative, you will still need to isolate or separate yourself from others, so they don’t get sick.

If your test is negative, that does not mean you will not get infected later. You could be exposed to COVID-19 later and then develop illness. In other words, a negative test result does not rule out getting sick later.

**If you test positive for COVID-19**, your healthcare provider and the health department will likely recommend you isolate or separate yourself from others, so they don’t get sick. How long you are in isolation is based on when you started to feel sick, if you are improving, and other things.

**Throat/Nasal Test Results When You Do Not Have Symptoms**

**If you test negative for COVID-19**, you probably were not infected at the time your specimen was collected. However, some people test negative even when they are infected with the germ that causes COVID-19. This is called a FALSE-NEGATIVE test result. If you have been exposed to someone sick with COVID-19 recently, you may still need to be in quarantine, or separated from others, for a specific amount of time, to be sure you do not get sick.

If your test is negative, that does not mean you will not get infected later. You could be exposed to COVID-19 later and then develop illness. In other words, a negative test result does not rule out getting sick later.

**If you test positive for COVID-19**, your healthcare provider and the health department will likely recommend you isolate or separate yourself from others. The amount of time you need to be isolated may change if you develop symptoms. If you get any symptoms of COVID-19, it is important to let your healthcare provider or health department know.