

# Testing of Employees for SARS-CoV-2 at the West LA Campus: Information and Options

There are 2 kinds of tests VA Greater Los Angeles offers:

1. RT-PCR, which is a test for COVID-19 virus fragments, performed by inserting a swab into your nose
2. Serology, which is a blood test for IgG antibodies against COVID-19

There are 3 main employee groups who might present for COVID-19 testing:

1. Symptomatic employees
2. Asymptomatic employees with a work exposure
3. Asymptomatic employees not in groups 1-3 but who want to know if they have been exposed to COVID-19

For Employee Group 1, symptomatic employees, we recommend the RT-PCR test, that is, the nasal swab (through the nose).

- If you have COVID-19, the PCR test will usually become positive **4- 6 days after** your exposure; the swab can remain **positive for 3-6 weeks after** exposure.
- *What do I do?* Report to the Enhanced Screening Tent (EST), located just outside the Emergency Department on the east side of Building 500.

For Employee Group 2, asymptomatic employees with known work exposure, we recommend the RT-PCR test, that is, the nasal swab (through the nose).

- Again, the timing of the test is critical; it cannot turn positive until 4-6 days after your exposure; testing 0-3 days after a known/suspected COVID-19 exposure is not advised.
- *What do I do?* For your convenience, it depends where you work:
  - *If you work SOUTH* of Wilshire, report to the Enhanced Screening Tent (EST).
  - *If you work NORTH* of Wilshire, contact Employee Health to schedule an appointment (310-268-3522) Note: Employee Health is on North campus in Building 256

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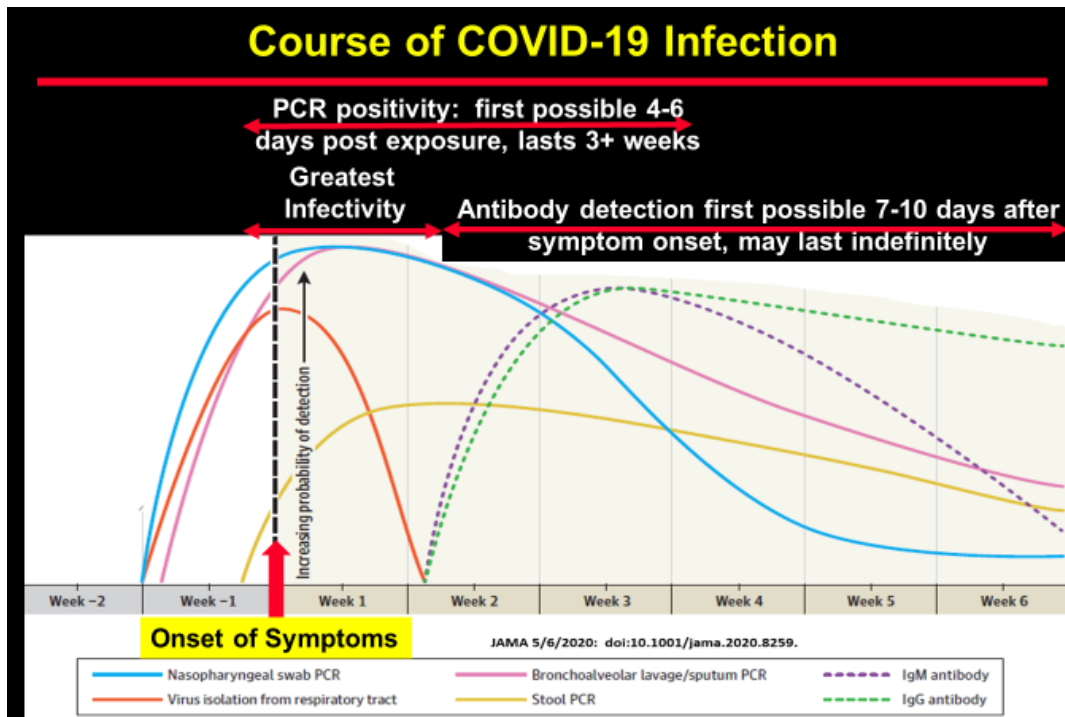
**Responsible Section/Service:** Chief of Staff

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Last Updated: July 2, 2020

For Employee Group 3, asymptomatic employees who want to see if they had COVID-19 in the past, the recommended test depends on when the suspected exposure occurred. If the suspected exposure occurred recently (within the last 14 days), we recommend the PCR test (nasal swab) – follow directions above for Employee Group 2 or 3. If the suspected exposure was more than 14 days ago, we recommend the serology (blood) test.

- Typically, antibodies are made 7-10 days after symptoms develop, or 11-16 days after the exposure day for those that had no symptoms.
- *What do I do?* Follow three steps:
  1. Put in a LEAF request (see directions and screenshots below and on the next page)
  2. Go to the phlebotomy (Blood) Lab in Building 500, East Side
  3. Look up your results on the portal in approximately 2 days:  
[https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VHAGLACOS/COVID-19\\_Info\\_Hub](https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VHAGLACOS/COVID-19_Info_Hub). If you do not have CPRS-Level access, please contact Employee Health directly (310-268-3522) for your results

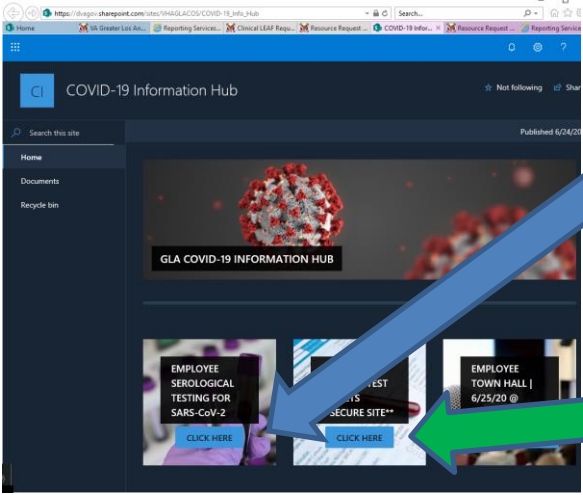


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GO TO SHAREPOINT COVID-19 INFORMATION HUB <https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VHAGLACOS/COVID-19 Info Hub>



Click here for LEAF request for blood test

Click here for blood results

Note: You must have CPRS-Level access to use the Employee Result Self-Lookup. **If you do not have CPRS-Level access, please contact Employee Health directly (310-268-3522) for your results.**

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