

# Tested for COVID-19 Now what?

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**Screen for COVID-19 before you go to school, work, a business, court or other public place.**  
Visit [covid-19.ontario.ca](https://covid-19.ontario.ca) and click “[Screen before you go](#)”.

<b>FOR NOT VACCINATED or PARTIALLY VACCINATED</b>			
	<b>Waiting for test results</b>	<b>Negative test results</b>	<b>Positive test results</b>
<b>Symptoms AND</b> contact of a case OR travelled outside Canada	Continue to self-isolate from others. Household members ( <b>not FV*</b> ) must also self-isolate.	Continue to self-isolate for <b>10 days</b> from your last contact to a positive case. Travellers self-isolate <b>14 days</b> from symptom onset.	Continue to self-isolate for <b>10 days</b> from when your symptoms started, or positive test date (or as directed by Public Health).
<b>Symptoms</b> but NOT a contact of a case and have NOT travelled outside Canada	Continue to self-isolate from others. Household members ( <b>not FV*</b> ) must also self-isolate.	Stop self-isolating 24 hours after symptoms started improving (48 hours for gastrointestinal symptoms).	
<b>No symptoms</b> but are a contact of a case or have travelled outside of Canada.	Continue to self-isolate from others. Household members ( <b>not FV*</b> ) must stay home except for essential reasons (e.g., school, work).	Continue to isolate for <b>10 days</b> from your last contact to a positive case or 14 days from arrival in Canada.	
Received notification of exposure on COVID Alert	Continue to self-isolate from others. If you have symptoms, household members ( <b>not FV*</b> ) should also self-isolate.	With symptoms – stop self-isolating 24 hours after symptoms started improving (48 hours for gastrointestinal symptoms). With no symptoms – stop self-isolation.	

\*FV = fully vaccinated

<b>FOR FULLY VACCINATED (FV) 14 days or more after final dose <u>OR</u> PREVIOUSLY POSITIVE for COVID-19 within the last 90 days</b>			
	<b>Waiting for test results</b>	<b>Negative test results</b>	<b>Positive test results</b>
<b>Symptoms AND</b> contact of a case.	Continue to self-isolate. Household members ( <b>not FV*</b> ) must also self-isolate.	Stop self-isolating 24 hours after symptoms started improving (48 hours for gastrointestinal symptoms).	Continue to self-isolate for <b>10 days</b> from when your symptoms started, or positive test date (or as directed by Public Health).
<b>Symptoms</b> but NOT a contact of a case.			
<b>No symptoms</b> but are a contact of a case	Not required to self-isolate. Household members do not need to self-isolate.	Not required to self-isolate. If you develop symptoms – self-isolate and get retested as soon as possible.	
Received notification of exposure on COVID Alert	With symptoms – self-isolate. Household members ( <b>not FV*</b> ) must also self-isolate. With no symptoms – not required to self-isolate.	With symptoms – stop self-isolating 24 hours after symptoms started improving (48 hours for gastrointestinal symptoms).	

\*FV = fully vaccinated

## How do you get your test results?

- Visit [covid-19.ontario.ca](https://covid-19.ontario.ca) and click "[Check your lab results](#)".
- A test result will usually be available in 1-3 days.
- If your test is positive you will be contacted by Public Health and they will advise you on how long you will need to self-isolate.

## What does a negative test mean?

- The virus was not detected at the time your sample was collected. It does not mean that you will not test positive for, or become sick, or be exposed to COVID-19 at any time after your test.
- To prevent becoming infected with COVID-19, practice physical distancing from others, wear a mask when physical distancing is not possible, wash your hands often, and monitor for symptoms of COVID-19.

## What does a positive test mean if you don't have symptoms?

- The test is very effective at detecting any virus. It could represent a new infection or a previous infection.
- You should self-isolate and monitor for symptoms as directed by Public Health.
- Individuals who have previously tested positive within the last 90 days and have been cleared from their infection, should not get another test unless new or worsening COVID-19 symptoms emerge and/or have been directed to by Public Health.

## Can the test determine if you had a COVID-19 in the past?

- No. This is not an antibody/serology test. This swab test only determines if you have detectable COVID-19 at the time the test is collected.

## Are fully vaccinated travelers exempt from quarantine when they enter Canada?

- Travellers who have no symptoms and meet the Government of Canada requirements of fully vaccinated travellers may be exempt from quarantine when they enter Canada. Please review travel information at [travel.gc.ca](https://travel.gc.ca).

## More about COVID-19

- Some people can be infected and stay symptom-free. Some can test positive and then develop symptoms.
- Whether you have symptoms or not, if you tested positive you are considered infectious and can still pass the virus on to someone else until you have been cleared by Public Health.
- It is important to monitor your symptoms of COVID-19. If your symptoms are worsening and you are concerned, contact your health care provider or Telehealth (1-866-797-0000).
- If you have any severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing or chest pain, call 911 and tell them you have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Download the COVID alert app from your mobile phone app store to receive notifications of exposures to confirmed COVID-19 persons.

For more information, call Public Health at **1-800-265-7293**, ext. **7006** or visit [wdgpublichealth.ca](https://wdgpublichealth.ca)