

COVID-19 (PCR) Test

The COVID-19 (PCR) test uses a nasopharyngeal swab to test your nasal secretions for traces of COVID-19.

COVID-19 Rush University Student positive test result

If your COVID-19 test was positive, this means that the test did detect the presence of COVID-19 in your nasal secretions. This result would suggest that you **are currently infected** with COVID-19.

For next steps, you can expect a call from the Employee Exposure Team to provide further details on your test results and required return to campus clearance.

Return to campus clearance will be given once all the following criteria are met:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, AND
- At least 3 days have passed since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)

If by day 10, your symptoms have not improved to qualify for return to campus clearance, you must contact your healthcare provider for follow up care and clearance. Once cleared to return to campus by your healthcare provider, you will need to bring proof of clearance to Rush Employee Health (ECHS) for official return to campus clearance documentation. Please contact the Employee Exposure Team at EmployeeCOVIDTesting@rush.edu for further questions.

Lastly, please self-isolate at home as much as possible, until you have recovered from your illness. If there are other people in your household who do not have COVID-19, please try to separate yourself from them in a different room or area of your household.

You can learn more at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>.

If you have any questions about what else you should do, please call us at [\(888\) 352-RUSH \(7874\)](tel:888352RUSH7874).

If you are having trouble breathing and need emergent care, please call 911 or visit your nearest emergency department to get immediate care.

COVID-19 Rush University Student negative test result

If your COVID-19 test was negative, this means that the test did not detect the presence of COVID-19 in your nasal secretions. This result would suggest that you **are not currently infected** with COVID-19.

For return to campus clearance, if you are currently or were symptomatic at time of testing with COVID/ILI symptoms (such as fever, cough, shortness of breath), you are required to remain off of campus for a minimum of 3 days. You can return to campus 3 days after recovery, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath).

If you are concerned of severe or worsening symptoms, seek medical care from your primary care provider and please contact the Employee Exposure Team at EmployeeCOVIDTesting@rush.edu for further return to campus guidance.

If you were not symptomatic at time of testing or now, no return to campus clearance is needed.

If you have had a negative COVID-19 test, we still recommend that you wear a face mask in public, practice frequent hand hygiene and follow social distancing recommendations, just as you were doing before your COVID-19 test.

These additional tips will help keep you safe and minimize the spread of COVID-19:

- Stay home if you are sick
- Wash your hands regularly
- Wear a mask when out in public
- Practice social distancing (at least 6 feet)
- Clean your environment
- Monitor yourself for any symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, cough or shortness of breath.

If you develop any of these symptoms you can call us at [\(888\) 352-RUSH \(7874\)](tel:888352RUSH7874) or [start a video visit](#).

You can learn more at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>