



National Indian Health Board

# NATIONAL TRIBAL COVID-19 RESPONSE

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## COVID-19 Testing for American Indian and Alaska Natives, Tribal Members and Communities

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) has affected American Indian and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) and their communities since its emergence. Testing recommendations have changed since the development of COVID-19 vaccines and as new information is learned about the disease. It is important for AI/ANs to know about COVID-19 testing for the health and safety of Tribal communities. Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website for the most up to date information on testing eligibility and procedures at [www.CDC.gov/coronavirus](http://www.CDC.gov/coronavirus)

## Who Should Get Tested?

AI/ANs should contact their Tribal healthcare provider to discuss getting tested for COVID-19 whether they have or have not had the vaccine if:

- You have symptoms related to COVID-19 (cough, fever or chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing).
- You have been in close contact (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- You have taken part in activities that might put you at higher risk for COVID-19 because you could not physically distance as needed to avoid exposure such as attending large social or mass gatherings, or being in crowded or poorly-ventilated indoor settings such as sporting events or powwows.
- You have been asked or referred to get tested by a healthcare provider, or a state, Tribal, local, or territorial health department.



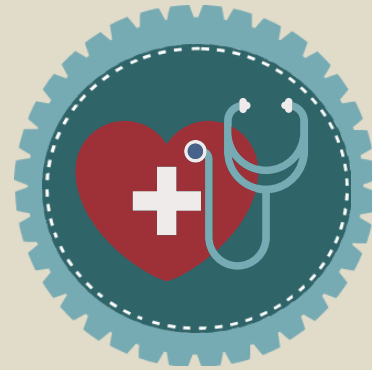
# Frequently Asked Questions



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



Yes, it is possible. You may test negative if the sample was collected early in your infection and test positive later during this illness. You could have also been exposed to COVID-19 after the test and been infected then.



**Is at-home specimen collection or testing available?**



Yes. At-home testing and collection allows you to collect a specimen at home and either send it to a testing facility or perform the test at home. You and your healthcare provider might consider either an at-home collection kit or an at-home test if you have signs and symptoms of COVID-19, if you can't get testing at a local healthcare facility, or if you do not have access to a testing clinic.



**I have COVID-19. How do I tell the people I was around?**



If you have COVID-19, tell your close contacts you have COVID-19 so that they can quarantine at home and get tested. By letting your close contacts know that they may have been exposed to COVID-19, you are helping to protect them and others in your community. You can call, text, or email your contacts. If you would like to stay anonymous, there is also an online tool that allows you to tell your contacts by sending out emails or text notifications anonymously ([www.tellyourcontacts.org](http://www.tellyourcontacts.org)).



**Where do I go to get tested?**



Testing sites vary by state and locality. In some places, testing is only offered at health facilities and may be reserved for hospitalized patients. Some states have established community testing sites, such as drive-through testing clinics. Contact your healthcare provider or visit your state, local, tribal, or territorial health department's website to find the latest local information on testing.

For more information, or to learn more about frequently asked questions, visit the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html).

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html>



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For more information, visit NIHB's National Tribal COVID-19 Response page at [www.nihb.org](http://www.nihb.org)