



Abbott ID NOW Pre- and Post- Test Information for Clients

What is an Abbott ID NOW test?

An Abbott ID NOW test is a type of rapid COVID-19 test that can give you a result during your visit to a clinic or testing location. Results are usually ready in 20 minutes or less while you wait.

What's the difference between standard tests and ID NOW tests?

Standard Tests (also called routine) are done via PCR (polymerase chain reaction). A sample is taken from the back of the nose or a swish and gargle in the mouth and throat. They are the 'gold standard' of testing and are very accurate. They take longer than ID NOW tests because they are sent to a special laboratory after the sample is taken.

ID NOW Tests are done via NAAT (nucleic acid amplification). A sample is taken from the front of the nose, a few centimeters in. These tests are usually ready in 20 minutes, but are less accurate than standard (PCR) tests. Because they are not as accurate, sometimes they can produce a false-positive or false-negative result. Because of this, some results are **preliminary** and you may need a standard test to confirm your result.

Who can have an ID NOW test?

This test is used in specific location in Yukon where a rapid test is preferred. People who have **symptoms** of COVID-19 and are **within 7 days** of symptoms starting can have an ID NOW test. This is when the amount of virus in your body will be at its highest.

If you get an ID NOW test **before** you have symptoms or **after** 7 days of having symptoms, the test may not be as accurate and the chance of getting a false-positive or false-negative result is much higher. If you meet these criteria, you should have a standard test instead.

If you are a contact of or have been exposed to COVID-19, it usually takes the virus **5-7 days to become detectable** in your body. Getting an ID NOW test before this date will give a false-negative result.

What happens before the ID NOW test?

There is no special preparation you need to do before your ID NOW test. If you have a lot of mucous or use a nasal spray medication, you should blow your nose before the sample is taken.

What happens during the ID NOW test?

A healthcare provider will take a sample from you by swabbing each nostril for 15 seconds. The swab will go a few centimeters in. The swab may be uncomfortable, but it should not hurt. Your provider will then take the sample and run the test while you wait.

As part of a continuous clinical validation process, every 10th person to have an ID NOW test will have a standard test done as well – regardless of the result. This help us know the machine is working correctly.



What happens when I get my result?

Negative

A negative only provides information about the time that you get your test. Results are considered a point in time and cannot be applied if there is a change in your clinical picture or level of risk (e.g. new symptoms, new contact to a case, etc.).

You still have to self-isolate until your symptoms improve, or if you have been asked to self-isolate for any other reason. You cannot use a negative ID NOW result *instead* of self-isolating. If your symptoms continue for 2-3 days after your ID NOW test, a repeat test is recommended.

If your provider still has a high degree of suspicion that you have COVID-19, you may be asked to have a standard test as well.

To help you understand how to interpret your negative result see:
<https://yukon.ca/en/find-out-what-your-covid-19-test-results-mean>

Invalid

An invalid test can be due to a poor sample, defective cartridge, or a test error. Your provider can do the test **one more time** without taking another sample from you. If the second ID NOW test is also invalid, your provider will take another sample for a standard test.

If this happens, you have to self-isolate until your standard test comes back negative and your symptoms improve. If you have been asked to self-isolate for any other reason, you cannot use a negative ID NOW result *instead* of self-isolating. You should continue to self-isolate and follow the recommendation of your healthcare provider.

Preliminary Positive

A preliminary positive means that you are likely infected with COVID-19. You must self-isolate immediately and have a standard test done to confirm this result.

Your healthcare provider will have a conversation with you about how and where you will self-isolate. If you do not have a safe place to self-isolate, your provider can make a referral to a partnership isolation service. There is a free service.

Preliminary positive results are sent to Yukon Communicable Disease Control (YCDC) and are treated as true positives until the standard test comes back. You will be provided further instructions and guidance. **Your result is confidential**, and you may choose who to share it with. While you wait for follow up, it is a good idea to think about people you have been around and places you have visited. This information is important for contact tracing and protecting the health of others.

NOTE: If you have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days before your ID NOW test, there is a chance that you may get a false-positive result. This is because **the test can only tell if part of the virus is there or not. The test cannot tell if the virus is alive or dead.**