



COVID-19 Antigen Test Information

What is a COVID-19 Antigen test?

Antigen tests are designed to detect proteins from the virus that causes COVID-19 in respiratory specimens, for example nasal swabs. SARS-CoV-2 antigens are usually detectable within 3-5 days from the initial infection. If you have a positive test result, it is very likely that you have COVID-19 because proteins from the virus that causes COVID-19 were found in your sample. A negative test result means that proteins from the virus that causes COVID-19 were not found in your sample.

There are different kinds of tests for diagnosing COVID-19. Molecular tests (also known as PCR tests) detect genetic material from the virus. Antigen tests detect proteins from the virus. Antigen tests are very specific for the virus but are not as sensitive as molecular tests. This means that a positive result is highly accurate, but a negative result does not rule out infection. If your test result is negative, you should discuss with your healthcare provider whether an additional molecular test would help with your care.

Test Manufacturer:	Quidel
Test Name:	Sofia 2 SARS Antigen FIA
Positive Percent Agreement (sensitivity):	96.7%
Negative Percent Agreement (specificity):	100.0%
Quidel Fact Sheet:	Quidel Fact Sheet for Patients

Sensitivity (PPA) measures how often a test correctly generates a positive result for people who have the condition that’s being tested for (also known as the “true positive” rate). A test that’s highly sensitive will flag almost everyone who has the disease and not generate many false-negative results.	Specificity (NPA) measures a test’s ability to correctly generate a negative result for people who don’t have the condition that’s being tested for (also known as the “true negative” rate). A high-specificity test will correctly rule out almost everyone who doesn’t have the disease and won’t generate many false-positive results.
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FDA Status:

- On May 8, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an [Emergency Use Authorization](#) (EUA) for the Quidel Sofia 2 SARS Antigen FIA test.

Test Reimbursement

- Please check your healthcare insurer’s website for additional information about reimbursement for this test.