



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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Division of Public Health

Date: June 23, 2020
To: All North Carolina Clinicians
From: Zack Moore, MD, MPH, State Epidemiologist
Re: Antigen Testing for SARS-CoV-2

Antigen tests are designed for rapid diagnosis of active infection by detecting viral proteins in nasal swabs or similar clinical specimens. Several commercial manufacturers are developing SARS-CoV-2 antigen tests, although only one test kit has obtained FDA Emergency Use Authorization so far (Sofia 2 SARS Antigen FIA; Quidel Corporation).

Antigen tests are less sensitive than PCR-based methods. Due to the lower sensitivity, antigen tests are not recommended as a sole diagnostic test for COVID-19.

Positive antigen tests should be considered an indication of likely SARS-CoV-2 infection and immediately reported to the state or local health departments per [existing guidance](#). Clinicians should review guidance for [persons under investigation](#) with patients who have positive antigen results; further public health actions including isolation and contact tracing will be taken in coordination with the local health department.

Patients with a negative antigen test in whom SARS-CoV-2 infection is suspected should be tested using a different FDA authorized molecular method.

Additional Information for Healthcare Providers

- The most current information on testing and testing resources is available at <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/about-covid-19/testing>.
- The most current recommendations regarding infection prevention, therapeutic options and other topics are available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>.
- Additional information and resources for providers and the public are available at <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov>.
- Providers needing consultation can call the epidemiologist on call at 919-733-3419.
- Members of the public should call 2-1-1 or 888-892-1162 or text COVIDNC to 898211.
- Providers and patients can utilize NCCARE360 to identify and connect to medical and non-medical health related resources <https://nccare360.org/>.

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