# Assessing COVID-19 Risk Through Human Testing

## **Initial Disclaimer**

# You and your organization need to keep in mind that assessing risk based on the negative results of Antigen or PCR tests can be tricky because:

- We don't have precise measures of accuracy for these tests.
- How carefully a sample is collected and stored may affect accuracy.
- A large and growing number of laboratories and companies offer these tests, and their accuracy may vary.
- All of these tests are new because the virus is new.
- We don't have a definitive "gold standard" test with which to compare them.



### Implementing a Successful Human Testing Policy

Regardless of its limitations, your organization can implement a successful testing policy taking into account the following considerations:

#### What test should my organization use?

Lab-based PCRs are the more accurate and the best confirmatory tests for COVID-19 (whether used on vaccinated or unvaccinated users) we have at this time.

The research shows that a lab-based PCR test is typically highly accurate and generally does not need to be repeated.

With antigen tests, positive results are also reasonably accurate, but false positives can happen. Negative results on an antigen test should be considered for follow-up with a molecular test, as recommended by the CDC for antigen follow-up.





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# CDC Antigen Test Follow-up Chart



## When implementing a testing policy, remember the 4Ds.



When incorporating testing into risk management initiatives, always keep the 4 Ds in mind and consider a multi-layered approach with varying COVID-19 mitigations efforts. Commonly used, effective layers include:

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- A Daily Health Attestation Questionnaire,
- Effective Ventilation,
- Cleaning/Disinfecting,
- Vaccine Confirmation,
- Case Management Plan,
- Testing





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