










COVID TESTING TYPES



	Detects virus For detection of current infection	Detects antibodies For detection of past infection	
TEST TYPE	RT-PCR TEST	RAPID ANTIGEN TEST	RAPID ANTIBODY TEST
WHEN TO USE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travellers – check airline requirements Patients requiring hospital admission 5-7 days after suspected contact Symptomatic patients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travellers – check airline requirements 5-7 days after an exposure Symptomatic patients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you have had COVID infection previously
HOW IT WORKS	Genetic Detects genetic material of a virus 	Proteins Detects proteins called antigens found on a virus 	Antibodies Detects antibodies in blood and the body's immune response to the infection caused by the virus 
HOW IT'S COLLECTED	Nasal or throat swab 	Nasal Swab 	Finger prick 
ADVANTAGES	Accurate Most accurate way to test for current infection 	Speed and Cost Less expensive and offers fast results (<1hr) 	Immunity clues Will tell you if you have antibodies 
LIMITATIONS	Current infection only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Takes 24-36 hours for results Not useful for determining past exposure in fully recovered patients 	Less Accurate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not as reliable as a RT-PCR test A negative test does not exclude infection A confirmatory RT-PCR test is still required if symptoms or high risk exposure factors accompany a negative antigen test 	Cannot determine current infection Because much is unknown about immunity, this test could give a false sense of safety to patients

Next Pathology is licensed by the SA Department of Health specifically for the diagnostic testing of SARS COV-2.