

Poplar Healthcare is offering the COVID-19 RT-PCR Assay in its centrally located laboratory in Memphis, TN.

Below are answers to questions about Poplar Healthcare's testing for COVID-19. For additional questions, please contact Client Services at (888) 244-7284.

➤ What platform is Poplar Healthcare using for COVID-19 testing?

A Poplar Healthcare has validated the SARS-CoV-2 assay on Roche cobas 6800, Roche cobas z480, Hologic Panther Fusion, and Thermo Fisher QuantStudio 7K.

➤ What are the differences between the different versions of the COVID-19 tests offered by Poplar Healthcare?

A The tests have the same specimen collection and processing requirements, test result reporting, billing, and all are RT-PCR tests. The primary difference between the tests is that they are performed on different platforms and using different reagents. Being able to perform different versions of the test provides the lab with flexibility, resiliency, and the ability to adapt to manufacturing shortages and to best meet the need for increased capacity.

➤ How long will it take to report results back?

A Results should be reported within 24 to 48 hours from the time the specimen is received in the lab.

➤ How will COVID-19 test results be interpreted?

A Positive or Negative.

NOTE: Results are reported per FDA guidelines in the package insert of each testing platform. Results on Hologic Panther Fusion, Thermo Fisher QuantStudio 7K and Roche cobas z480 are resulted as positive or negative. Results on Roche cobas 6800 are resulted as positive or negative for each genetic target. A dual positive for both pathogens, or a positive result for only SARS-CoV-2, indicate a positive result for SARS-CoV-2. A dual negative for both pathogens, or a negative result for only SARS-CoV-2 indicate a negative result for SARS-CoV-2.

➤ What are the criteria for sample rejection?

A Room temperature >7 days from collection (MTM)
Specimen Refrigerated swabs >28 days from collection
Improperly labeled specimens
Grossly contaminated specimens
Broken or leaking transport device
Collection with substances inhibitory to PCR including the following:

- Heparin
- Hemoglobin
- Ethanol
- EDTA concentrations >0.01M

Cotton-tipped swabs in Universal Transport Media (UTM) or VTM
Swabs with preservative
Swabs with wooden shaft

➤ Does Poplar Healthcare report test results to public health authorities?

A Poplar Healthcare will report all COVID-19 results to the appropriate public health agency in accordance with applicable requirements; however, health care providers may also be required to report positive patients to the appropriate public health agency.

RESOURCES

CDC COVID-19 Information bit.ly/2zk9uLj

ACG COVID Resources bit.ly/2yfuZ6o

AMA COVID-19 Coding Guidance
bit.ly/3aRkeEz