

UW Husky Testing FAQ

What kind of swab is used for this test? Can I swab myself?

- Our research study uses anterior nasal swabs for sample collection. These swabs are less invasive than most used for COVID-19 testing. These swabs only reach the front part of your nose. Participants may experience mild discomfort such as tickly or runny nose, watery eyes, or sneezing. For the safety of our staff, participants will swab themselves. The swab is inserted into the nostril until you feel some resistance, which is normally about an inch. You should swab vigorously around the inside of each nostril for 5 seconds each.

How long will it take to receive my results?

- It normally takes the lab 24–48 hours to process and return test results, although it can sometimes take longer than that.

What happens if my test result comes back positive?

- Stay home and self-isolate from others for 10 days since your test date. If you are experiencing symptoms, stay home for 10 days from when your symptoms started and 24 hours until your symptoms resolve. Do not go to work or class. If you live in a residence hall, notify the residence hall staff to help facilitate your self-isolation.
- The UW Environmental Health & Safety Department (EH&S) will reach out to you for follow up. They will ask standard questions to support your isolation and to prevent transmission on campus and among university community members. They will contact UW employees and students you may have been in contact with recently, and provide public health guidance. For more information, see ["What to do if I have confirmed COVID-19?"](#)

What if I have already tested positive for COVID-19?

- If you have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 10 days, please follow the instructions in the "What do I do if I have confirmed or suspected COVID-19?" Q&A from the University of Washington. If you have tested positive for COVID-19 prior to that, we still encourage you to enroll in Husky Coronavirus Testing. Currently, the rate of becoming infected more than once is not understood.
- If you were to develop symptoms again, we recommend repeat testing. You can also enroll anytime during the year if you develop symptoms or decide you'd like to enroll

Do I have to get tested?

- For the health and safety of the UW community, we encourage everyone to sign up; however, this study is completely voluntary. It is up to you if you would like to participate, and you can leave the study at any time without any penalty. The University of Washington will not be notified whether or not you decide to participate in the study.
- The UW's interpretation of Washington State law is that mandatory testing, such as a condition of employment or a housing contract, is not permissible under current conditions. However, we hope everyone who will be at a UW campus or facility regularly will enroll and participate in the program to protect their health and the health of the community.

Who will be informed of my test result?

- The University of Washington Environmental Health & Safety team will be informed if you are positive to perform contact tracing and assist with any quarantine needs. Public Health — Seattle & King County (Seattle and Bothell campuses) or Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (Tacoma campus), along with the Washington Department of Health, are informed of COVID-19 test results to provide assistance and perform contact tracing, if needed.

What else will my sample be tested for?

- In addition to COVID-19, your sample may be tested for other respiratory viruses that may make you feel sick. This includes rhinovirus, parainfluenza, metapneumovirus, RSV A, RSV B, Flu A (H1N1), Flu A (H3N2), Flu B, and common coronaviruses. Aggregated information from these results is published periodically in publicly-available reports, and findings are used to help inform the University of Washington's and King County's ongoing public health response.

How long does the study last?

- This study will run through the academic year from September 2020 until June 2021.

What is the goal of the study that powers Husky Coronavirus Testing?

- The goal of the study that powers Husky Coronavirus Testing is to monitor for new cases of the novel coronavirus in the UW community. This will allow the UW to provide support to individuals who test positive, as well as to better understand transmission among the community, including symptomatic and asymptomatic cases. The findings from this study will help to inform the development of new systems to help prevent the spread of pathogens on college campuses and other educational facilities.

Who has access to my data? How will my information be shared?

- Your privacy is extremely important to us! Only the research team will have access to the information that you provide. No data directly linked to you will ever be made publicly available. To protect access to your results, you will be given a personal barcode.
- All study information will be stored in a secure, confidential manner. We will also store aggregated information separately from your personal information in order to understand trends in how coronavirus is spreading.
- Washington State law also requires that we report certain conditions (including COVID-19) to local health jurisdictions and the Department of Health. If your sample tests positive for one of these conditions, these organizations may contact you to ask you additional questions. They will keep your information private.

Where can I get tested?

- There are two planned testing locations on the Seattle campus: one at the UW Club, and one on the first floor of Odegaard Hall. There is another planned location at the University of Washington Medical Center at South Lake Union that will be opening later this fall.
- If UW Bothell or UW Tacoma is your main campus, or you do not attend work or classes in person, you may be tested at home using a kit that is mailed directly to you. These kits will contain all of the materials and instructions you need to take the test accurately and safely.

When should I get retested?

- You should be retested if you come into contact with someone who is experiencing symptoms or ends up with a positive COVID-19 test result. Additionally, you should be retested if you attend social gatherings with 10 or more individuals, inside and without masks.

I have more questions. Who do I contact?

- We would be happy to discuss your questions. Please send us an email at huskytest@uw.edu or call us at (206) 616-2414.