HOW CORONAVIRUS (SARS-COV-2) MOLECULAR TESTING WORKS

Molecular testing helps detect the presence of a SARS-CoV-2 or coronavirus infection. Here’s how it works.

1. An upper respiratory tract swab collects a mucus sample for testing.

2. The sample is mixed with reagents, which break open the virus and release its genetic material, the viral RNA.

3. The reagents recognize a unique section of the coronavirus genome, while ignoring other viruses even if they’re similar strains.

4. The virus genome is replicated from a few target molecules up to a billion, making the virus more detectable.

5. Abbott’s molecular test provides results to the healthcare provider.

IMPORTANT TEST INFORMATION

The Abbott RealTime SARS-CoV-2 EUA has not been FDA cleared or approved. It has been authorized by FDA under an emergency use authorization for use by authorized laboratories. The test has been authorized only for the detection of nucleic acid from SARS-CoV-2, not for any other viruses or pathogens, and is only authorized for the duration of the declaration that circumstances exist justifying the authorization of emergency use of medical diagnostic tests for detection and/or diagnosis of COVID-19 under section 564(b)(1) of the Act, 21 U.S.C. § 360bb-3(c)(1), unless the authorization is terminated or revoked sooner.

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