

How To Interpret a SARS-CoV-2 NAA Report



Result

Test Result: Positive

Component	Result
S Gene	14.59
N Gene	12.68
ORF1ab	13.65
MS2 Control	30.85

Interpretation

This is a positive (detected) test result. It is very likely that you have an active SARS-CoV-2 infection. Therefore, you should isolate yourself to avoid spreading the virus to others. Your healthcare provider will work with you to determine how best to care for you based on the test results along with other factors of your medical history, and your symptoms, possible exposures, and geographic location of places you have recently traveled.

What do Ct values mean?

A test reports as positive *if two out of the three viral targets have Ct values less than 37*. Ct, or cycle threshold, is the cycle of amplification that the fluorescence crosses the threshold to positive. The Ct value correlates with viral load. A *lower Ct value* indicates a *higher viral load* in the sample, and vice versa.

Test Result: Negative

Component	Result
S Gene	Undetermined
N Gene	Undetermined
ORF1ab	Undetermined
MS2 Control	26.01

This is a negative (not detected) test result. A negative or not detected test result means that the SARS-CoV-2 virus was not detected in your sample. For COVID-19, a negative or not detected test result for a sample collected while a person has symptoms usually means that COVID-19 did not cause your recent illness. However, it is possible for this test to give a negative or not detected result that is incorrect (false negative) in some people with COVID-19. This means that you could possibly still have COVID-19 even though the test is negative. If this is the case, your healthcare provider will consider the test result together with all other aspects of your medical history (such as symptoms, possible exposures, and geographical location of places you have recently traveled) in deciding how to care for you. It is important that you work with your healthcare provider to help you understand the next steps you should take.

Test Result: Inconclusive

Component	Result
S Gene	Undetermined
N Gene	Undetermined
ORF1ab	35.44
MS2 Control	25.19

This is an inconclusive test result. In other words, a conclusive test result could not be determined. This result is issued if a *Ct value less than 37 is recorded for one of the three viral targets*. This result should be treated as a presumptive positive. If you have an inconclusive test result, it is very likely that you have or have had COVID-19. Therefore, you should isolate yourself to avoid spreading the virus to others, and contact your healthcare provider for follow-up testing. There is a very small chance that this test can give a positive result that is wrong (a false positive result). Your healthcare provider will work with you to determine how best to care for you based on the test results along with other factors of your medical history, and your symptoms and possible exposures.

Test Result: Invalid

Component	Result
S Gene	Undetermined
N Gene	Undetermined
ORF1ab	Undetermined
MS2 Control	Undetermined

This is an invalid test result. There was most likely an issue with the specimen collection, especially if a saliva sample was collected, or with the test processing. You will need to call your healthcare provider to schedule to have the test recollected. Please do not put anything in your nose prior to having the swab recollected or do not eat or drink 30 minutes prior to submitting a saliva sample. You will need to continue to quarantine yourself until your test has been recollected and resulted.