Topic	PCR Test	Antibody Test	Antigen Test
The test:	• PCR test looks for pieces of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID19, with a nasal or throat swab, to determine an **active infection.** • <u>The test could take a few days depending on the volume being tested.</u>	• Serology looks for antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 in the blood, could be done by a finger stick blood draw to look for a **past infection with IgG, or an active/recent infection with IgM antibodies.** • <u>The test can be run within 15 minutes while you wait.</u>	• Antigen test looks for pieces of proteins that make up the SARS-CoV-2 virus, with a nasal or throat swab, to determine an **active infection.** • <u>The test can be run within 15 minutes while you wait.</u>
Pros	• A positive PCR test means that the person being tested has an active COVID19 infection.	• A positive antibody test means that the person being tested was infected with COVID19. If they have IgM antibodies, it may be an indication of an active or recent infection. If they have IgG, it may be a sign of a previous exposure. • IgM antibodies appear 3-5 days after exposure. IgM stays in the body for weeks to months. IgG antibodies appear 7-10 days after the infection. IgG stays in the body for months to years.	• A positive antigen test means that the person being tested has an active COVID19 infection.
Cons	• It does not help determine who had an infection in the past. • The test might not find the virus if the swab is taken a few days after the illness starts.	• It may be negative if the test is performed too close to the start of an infection, as the antibodies did not have time to form. • Some individuals do not form antibodies in their blood.	• Antigen tests are less sensitive than PCR tests. • The test might not find the virus if the swab is taken a few days after the illness starts.

Wellness Medical Clinic
1931 Welby Way, Suite #4
(850) 545-9376
www.mymedicalwellness.com