

COVID-19 Testing FAQs for Students

What is a COVID-19 PCR test?

A COVID-19 PCR test indicates if you are infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. In most cases, a nasal or throat swab is taken by a healthcare provider or self-administered. If you choose to be tested prior to your arrival to campus, be sure that you obtain a COVID-19 PCR test, not an antibody test. A COVID-19 PCR test checks to see if you currently have the virus, while an antibody test tells you if you previously had the virus.

What COVID-19 test should I be asking for?

When you make your appointment or walk into a facility where an appointment is not needed, be sure to specifically ask for a COVID-19 PCR Test. Please then get verbal confirmation that they are administering a COVID-19 PCR test.

Will resident students be required to be tested for COVID-19 prior to moving into campus?

As part of our commitment to the health and safety of our residential community, we are encouraging all new and returning resident students to:

- Complete a COVID-19 PCR test within 14 days prior to their scheduled arrival,
- Produce a negative test lab result, and
- Bring the written negative test result the day you move in.

The test result, either on letterhead or an electronic copy from a medical provider/testing center, should state your name, the date of the test (within 14 days of your move-in), and that your COVID-19 PCR test is NEGATIVE.

Once you complete your COVID-19 PCR test, please remain at home and self-quarantine to the greatest extent possible before your move-in day. Please also follow facial covering and physical distancing requirements for your health and the health of others.

What if I return to campus for residence hall move in and have not taken a COVID-19 PCR test?

If you arrive without having taken COVID-19 PCR test, the College will have you complete a self-administered PCR test prior to moving into your residence hall assignment. **Please have your insurance card available at move in.** While we wait for the testing results, you are strongly encouraged to limit your interaction with individuals on campus.

What if I took a test, but my results haven't arrived before I move into the residence halls?

If you get tested within 14 days of your arrival but you do not have your results in hand, if you provide your results to the Wellness Center at wellness@mcdaniel.edu within the first seven days of being on campus, you also will be exempt from testing at move in and in the first two weeks.

What if I have already tested positive for COVID-19 and recovered? Do I need another test?

If you previously tested positive for COVID-19 and have recovered, do not take a COVID-19 PCR test. In place of a negative COVID-19 PCR test, you must bring medical clearance in writing from your medical practitioner. The clearance must indicate that at least 10 days have passed since the onset of your symptoms or your positive COVID-19 test (if asymptomatic), indicating that your infection is resolved and you are free of any symptoms. If ten days have not yet passed, please start your classes online from home until you are able to receive your clearance.

When should I get a COVID-19 PCR test?

If you are choosing to get a COVID-19 PCR test prior to your arrival to campus, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible and at least 14 days prior to your arrival to campus.

Where can I get a COVID-19 PCR test?

To find a MD testing location near you, please use the following resource: [MD Testing Site Locator](#)

To search for testing sites across the United States, click [HERE](#).

What is the cost for a COVID-19 PCR test?

Most medical insurances cover COVID-19 testing. If you are not certain, contact your insurance carrier and be sure to ask what the cost is. Most local health departments will do these tests at no charge to you, but please contact your local Health Department for more information.

What should I do once I receive my COVID-19 PCR test and the result is negative?

Once you receive your COVID-19 PCR negative test results -- NOT an antibody test -- please keep them in a safe place and bring the lab results with you when you arrive for residence hall move in. The test result, either on letterhead or an electronic copy from a medical provider/testing center, should include your name, the date of the test (within 14 days of your check-in), and note a negative COVID-19 PCR test.

What if my COVID-19 PCR test is positive?

Contact the Office of Residence Life at (410) 857-2240 and inform them of your result. We will hold your assigned housing accommodation until you have fully recovered. You should then stay home, get well, and follow the advice of a medical practitioner, this includes isolating for 10-14 days.

The Office of Residence Life will inform the Office of Academic Life of your absence and that office will send an email to your faculty letting them know you are out for a health-related issue. We ask that you also reach out to your faculty to obtain any needed class materials so that you stay on track with your coursework while you are recovering.

Once recovered YOU MUST bring medical clearance in writing from your medical practitioner in order to

move into your housing assignment or attend any in-person classes. The clearance must state that at least 10 days have passed since the onset of your symptoms or your positive COVID-19 PCR test (if asymptomatic), and indicate that you are free from infection and you are free of any symptoms.

Will there be additional COVID-19 PCR testing required during the semester?

There are two different circumstances in which you may be asked to take an additional test. If you develop COVID-19 symptoms, you will be asked to complete a test through the Wellness Center or through your primary healthcare provider. Additionally, the College has developed a COVID-19 surveillance testing process that will begin during the residence hall move in process and continue each week throughout the semester. Approximately 25% of the residential student population will be tested during each of the first two weeks of the semester.

See McDaniel's [Student Prevention, Testing and Treatment Protocols for COVID-19](#) for further information about our quarantine procedures and testing protocols.