

# SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Qualitative Real-time RT-PCR



SARS-CoV-2 was discovered in 2019 during an outbreak of respiratory disease in Wuhan, China. It is a betacoronavirus, the seventh coronavirus known to infect humans, and closely related to SARS-CoV, the causative agent of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). SARS-CoV-2 and its associated Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) have spread globally since late 2019, transmitted by aerosol droplets and leading to cold-like symptoms including fatigue, cough, aches, sore throat, congestion, occasionally vomiting and diarrhea, as well as fever, dyspnea, hypoxia, and, notably, loss of taste and/or smell. Children appear to have primarily asymptomatic or mild infections, while the elderly and immunocompromised or those with comorbidities (such as heart or lung disease, uncontrolled diabetes, or high blood pressure) are at highest risk of severe or critical disease. Real-time PCR provides a rapid and sensitive method to determine the presence of target-specific amplifiable nucleic acids in all samples intended for PCR<sup>1-3</sup>. For more information, call the lab at 513-636-9820.

## Reporting Units:

Positive/Negative

## Unacceptable Specimens:

- Swabs in gel or charcoal media

## Shipping Conditions:

- Ambient if sent within 24 hours
- On cold packs if sent >24 hours after collection

## Testing Schedule:

Testing for SARS-CoV-2 is performed Mon-Fri on first and second shift, and once on Sat and Sun. For testing outside of this schedule, call the lab at 513-636-9820. **TAT:** 1-2 days

## CPT Codes:

87635

## Contact Information:

Cincinnati Children's Division of Pathology  
Molecular and Genomic Pathology Services (MGPS)

Phone: 513-636-9820

Fax: 513-517-7099

Email: [pathology@cchmc.org](mailto:pathology@cchmc.org)

Website: [cincinnatichildrens.org/pathology](http://cincinnatichildrens.org/pathology)

For pricing or billing questions, call 513-636-4261.

## Shipping Address:

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center  
Attn: Molecular and Genomic Pathology Services (MGPS)  
240 Albert Sabin Way, R2.001  
Cincinnati, OH 45229

## References:

1. Cheng Z, Shan J. 2019 novel coronavirus: where we are and what we know. *Infection*. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s15010-020-01401-y>. 2020.
2. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 1600 Clifton Road Atlanta, GA 30329-4027. Last revised February 22, 2021.
3. "Q&A on coronaviruses (COVID-19)." <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>. World Health Organization. Last revised May 13, 2021.

Sample	Volume Needed	Collection Container
Aspirate: endotracheal tube, tracheal	1mL	Sterile Container
Bronchoalveolar Lavage (BAL) fluid	1mL	Sterile Container
Swab*: nasal, nasopharyngeal, throat	n/a	Red or Green Culturette Swab

\*Red or green top culturette swabs preferred; viral transport media acceptable.

Clinical Lab Index:

COVID-19: <https://www.testmenu.com/cincinnatichildrens/Tests/1034614>