

COVID 19 UPDATE

EXPLAINING COVID TESTING AT MTC

11/9/2020

WHY DO SOME PEOPLE GET RAPID TESTS AND OTHERS GET THE SEND OUT TESTS?

The rapid tests are given to us by the Indian Health Service, who gets them from the federal government. MTC gets only a limited number of tests per week and we cannot control what we get.

The rapid tests have time limits. The test must be run in less than one hour from swab is in the nose to specimen placed in the analyzer. If it sits for more than one hour before being run, the test result may be inaccurate. We have two analyzers to run tests.

Because of these time limits, we can only do 8 rapid tests per hour.

To meet the demand for tests, we usually do 12-24 per hour, so only 8 can be rapid tests.

Due to these limitations, not everyone gets a rapid test. Here's how it works:

- We try to do rapid tests for anyone who has symptoms, who is not already in Quarantine.
- If you are already in Quarantine, you will likely get a send-out test because you will remain in Quarantine or Isolation regardless of the results. Remember, a negative test does not end Quarantine time!!!

- **If everyone in a family has Covid symptoms, it is extremely likely everyone has Covid so doing a rapid test on everyone is not needed.**
- **If 8 rapid tests have already been done to meet the hourly limit, everyone will get send out tests until we can do rapid tests again.**

We want to be very transparent about why you might get a send-out test instead of rapid test. We simply don't have enough rapid tests to do them for everyone; we would run out quickly and then everyone would get a send out test. Even if we had an unlimited supply of rapid tests, the one hour testing limit would STILL limit how many we can do.

In most situations, if you have Covid symptoms or are already in Quarantine, a rapid test result will not change what you need to do: STAY HOME!

Please be patient with our Covid testing teams. They are working hard to meet the testing demands of the community. Please do not decline a send-out test because you are disappointed you didn't get a rapid test. The most important thing is to GET TESTED and to STAY HOME. The type of test doesn't matter as much as those two things!

Thank you for being understanding!

Amy Slagle, MD

