

COUNTY- PORTER



**Porter County  
Health Department**

Administration Center  
155 Indiana Ave. • Ste. 104  
Valparaiso, IN 46383-5513

(219) 465-3525  
M. L. Stamp, M.D.  
Health Officer

August 19, 2020

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

In the unfortunate event, that you or your child may need to be tested for COVID-19, please ask for the **nasal pharyngeal** swab. This test has shown better accuracy and reliability.

Rapid testing, can refer to either antigen or antibody tests. Antigen tests detect proteins from the virus and can be helpful if the test is positive to indicate a patient is infected with COVID-19.

However, many infected patients will have negative tests and a negative test cannot rule out an active COVID-19 infection. Antibody tests measure either IGG or IGM, detecting the body's immune response to the virus. IGG and IGM antibody tests are prone to having false negative and false positive results, thus causing great confusion.

The nasal pharyngeal swab looks for the genetic material of the coronavirus. This test uses a technology called PCR (polymerase chain reaction), which greatly amplifies the viral genetic material if it is present. That material is detectable when a person is **actively infected**.

If you or your child are considered a "close contact", which is defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person, for at least 15 minutes, starting 2 days before illness, you or your child, would then be required to self-quarantine for 14 days after the last potential exposure. After this time frame, you or your child will be allowed to return to work or school.

If you or your child test positive for COVID-19, you/child will be excluded from work or school for 10 days after symptom onset, with at least 24 hrs. fever free.

School nurses are working hand in hand with the Health Department to ensure the health and safety of all children, and staff.

Porter County is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, military status, genetic testing, pregnancy, sexual orientation or any other unlawful bias.