You are being given this Fact Sheet because your sample(s) was tested for the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) using the SalivaDirect.

This Fact Sheet contains information to help you understand the risks and benefits of using this test for the diagnosis of COVID-19. After reading this Fact Sheet, if you have questions or would like to discuss the information provided, please talk to your healthcare provider.

For the most up to date information on COVID-19 please visit the CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) webpage: https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19

What is COVID-19?
COVID-19 is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus which is a new virus in humans causing a contagious respiratory illness. COVID-19 can present with a mild to severe illness, although some people infected with COVID-19 may have no symptoms at all. Older adults and people of any age who have underlying medical conditions have a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Serious outcomes of COVID-19 include hospitalization and death. The SARS-CoV-2 virus can be spread to others not just while one is sick, but even before a person shows signs or symptoms of being sick (e.g., fever, coughing, difficulty breathing, etc.). A full list of symptoms of COVID-19 can be found at the following link: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html.

What is the SalivaDirect?
The test is designed to detect the virus that causes COVID-19 in saliva specimens.

Why was my sample tested?
You were tested because:

i) Your healthcare provider believes you may have been exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19 based on your signs and symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, difficulty breathing), and/or because:
• You live in or have recently traveled to a place where transmission of COVID-19 is known to occur, and/or
• You have been in close contact with an individual suspected of or confirmed to have COVID-19.

ii) You are undergoing serial testing even though you do not have symptoms of or confirmed to have COVID-19.

Testing of the samples will help find out if you may have COVID-19.

What are the known and potential risks and benefits of the test?
Potential risks include:

• Possible discomfort or other complications that can happen during sample collection.
• Possible incorrect test result (see below for more information).

Potential benefits include:

• The results, along with other information, can help your healthcare provider make informed recommendations about your care.
• The results of this test may help limit the spread of COVID-19 to your family and those you come in contact with.

What does it mean if I have a positive test result?
If you have a positive test result, it is very likely that you have COVID-19. Therefore, it is also likely that you may be placed in isolation to avoid spreading the virus to others.

Where can I go for updates and more information? The most up to date information on COVID-19 is available at the CDC General webpage: https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19. In addition, please also contact your healthcare provider with any questions/concerns.
FACT SHEET FOR PATIENTS
Yale School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology of Microbial Diseases
SalivaDirect
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