What to expect: Children's Minnesota Swab Center

Updated November 12, 2021

As you prepare for a procedure at Children's Minnesota, your care team may ask that your child get a COVID-19 test. Here is some information to help you prepare for the COVID-19 test. With questions, please call our free COVID-19 Nurse Line: 952-99-COVID (952-992-6843).

Scheduling a COVID-19 test

If your child needs a COVID-19 test, Children's Minnesota will call you to schedule the test after your procedure is scheduled. An appointment is needed for a COVID-19 test. We recommend getting tested at a Children's Minnesota swab center to ensure we have your test results in time for your procedure. **A COVID-19 test is needed within 4 days of your procedure.**

We understand the Children's Minnesota swab center locations may not work for you. Some other options available to you are retail pharmacies or local COVID-19 testing sites through the Minnesota Department of Health. *If an order from a provider is requested by the testing facility, contact your child's primary care clinic. Please ensure the test that is performed is a **naso-pharyngeal or nasal swab PCR test.***

If you try to get a test at another facility but can't get one, please call Children's Minnesota at 612-813-7060. We will help you get a test in time for your procedure.

What to expect: Children's Minnesota swab centers

Locations

St. Paul Swab Center
347 N. Smith Avenue
1059 Garden View Tower.
St. Paul, MN 55102
View a map
Park in the Red Parking Ramp.
Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Friday: 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

When you arrive in St. Paul
- From the red ramp, follow the signs to the Garden View Tower.
- The Swab Center is located at 1059 Garden View Tower, between the coffee shop and the pharmacy on the first floor. (This space was formerly used as the Peter Pan Gift Shop.)
- Staff at the Welcome Desks can help you find your way, or call 651-220-6830 for help.

Minneapolis Swab Center
720 East 26th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55404
Enter the Green Parking Ramp. Follow signs to the lower level of the parking ramp, P3.
View a map
Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 8 am–4 pm; Thursday: 11 am –4 pm; Saturday: 8 am–12 pm

When you arrive in Minneapolis

- The Swab Center in Minneapolis is located in the Green Parking Ramp, and the test will take place in your car.
- Follow signs and park in a numbered parking spot that has a "Swab Center" sign and call the phone number on the sign: 612-813-7787.
- A health care provider will come to your car and provide instructions.
- Keep your child in their car seat, or on the seat with a seat belt on.
- To get the COVID-19 test sample, a long cotton swab will be put into your child's nose.
  This will likely be a little uncomfortable for your child. You can move to a different place in your vehicle to calm and comfort your child.

Social isolation

After the COVID-19 test, you and your family should socially isolate until the procedure to ensure your child is healthy for a safe procedure and to help protect you, your family, and your community from illness. Learn more.

COVID-19 test results

The test results will take a few days to come back. You will be contacted with your test results. If you **do not** get tested at Children's Minnesota, you must fax a copy of your test results to 612-813-7704 ***before the day of the procedure***. Please also bring a printed copy of the results or access via a patient portal.

Tips to prepare for the COVID-19 test

- Limit the number of people in the vehicle to the driver and the child getting the swab, if possible.
- Everyone in the car should stay seated and belted.
- Everyone over the age of two years should wear a mask in the car.
- Staff at the testing site will wear equipment to protect your family and themselves from illness. Watch this video to help your child understand what staff may be wearing.

Who pays for the COVID-19 test?

For questions about costs for a procedure or visit, contact your insurance company, or Children's Minnesota at PatientCostEstimates@ChildrensMN.org or 952-992-5627.

- **No health insurance:** A government program pays for the COVID-19 test, but not office visits.
- **With health insurance:** The CARES Act requires that COVID-19 testing is covered by health insurance providers with no cost to the patient. This applies to most health insurance coverage in Minnesota. The CARES Act only applies to the COVID-19 test and not other office visits.
- Some insurance providers have agreed to cover the cost for in-network office visits associated with the COVID-19 test. **It is important to check with your health insurance provider to find out what costs may be covered.**

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