Saliva Testing

To help keep our classes in-person, and to help keep our community safe, prevalence screening will be part of health and safety protocols at UVA. Our quick and easy coronavirus screening program relies on saliva samples to detect the virus, with the goal of identifying silent carriers before they have the opportunity to infect others. The saliva screenings will be mandatory for students and are free of charge. Screening usually takes less than 10 minutes.

Before Getting Tested
You should refrain from eating, drinking (including water), brushing your teeth, using mouth wash, chewing gum, or using tobacco for at least 30 minutes before submitting your saliva sample at the test location. Please note: If you are well hydrated, giving a saliva sample is much easier. Just refrain from drinking anything 30 minutes before doing the screening.

You will need to bring your UVA ID card with you.
If you have lost your student ID, please contact the UVA Academic ID card Office to get a new one.
Locations and times may change. Please check for available times and locations on the day you plan to get screened. While lining up outside a testing location, please wear a face covering and practice social distancing.

Getting Screened
Getting screened is quick and easy. Giving a saliva sample should take only 10 minutes.

Eligibility
The saliva screening is only available to current students and employees at the University of Virginia with valid ID cards.

Cost
The screening is free of charge.

The Test Itself
You will be asked to provide a 5 ml saliva sample. The sample collection only takes a few minutes.
The University of Virginia saliva screening is a diagnostic PCR test. Like nasal swab tests, the saliva tests are based on PCR technology, which amplifies small amounts of viral genetic material to facilitate detection.
Steps for **Be SAFE Saliva Screenings:**
- Get ID scanned.
- Take container with printed barcode label.

- Unscrew lid on container.
- Drool into container (not spit). Need 5 ml of saliva in the container.
- Screw on lid tightly and securely.
- Take to staff member and drop container into bag they are holding
- Done. You will be notified within the next 48-72 hours

Results and Notifications

Outcomes will be available in 48-72 hours. You will receive an email from Be Safe with a link to follow for negative and inconclusive results. Students and employees with positive results will be contacted by phone (by Student Health and Wellness or Employee Health). You will receive a second email from My Chart when your medical record has been updated. If you need to print your outcome, please access [MyChart.](#)

UVA Saliva Test Lab

UVA's saliva testing lab is called "Be Safe". The test is a PCR based test. Saliva screenings have an 88.6% percent sensitivity rate, meaning that if 100 people positive for COVID-19 do the saliva screening, it will only detect 85 of those cases. This is very similar to the sensitivity for mid-nasal swab test. Our saliva screening is 97.2% accurate. This means that if we did the saliva screening, and then tested the same person with a mid-nasal swab tests, the results would match 97.2% of the time.

Samples are not stored. After testing is complete sample is treated as biohazard waste and is disposed of.

Data Tracking and Storage

When you check into take a saliva test we scan your ID card. This pulls your university ID number into our system. We add to it your computing ID and the date, time and location that you checked in forming a barcode. This information is stored on a secure, internal UVA server and used to track who has given a sample.

Once the sample arrives in the lab, it is scanned into an internal, secure log for processing. When results are generated and associated with a barcode that is then reported securely to the IVY HPC secure server. This is a high security server which is used for highly sensitive information and is approved for HIPPA and other high security uses.

Results
- Results are reported at 2:30 am to the Virginia Department of Health via secure FTP transfer
- Results are paired with random codes tied to computing IDs to results page. Email notification is sent to login in through netbadge to see your results page.

- Results are sent at intervals through the day to UVA Data Warehouse for secure transfer into EPIC (UVA Medical records) Docs can see results
  - 24 hours later it is released into MyChart (where patient can see results) and email notification is sent.

No data from the saliva is being used for research or any other purpose other than reporting results to the patient.