



## COVID-19 Testing Decision

As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and learn more about the virus, many treatment centers have implemented COVID-19 testing as part of their admissions process. The Next Door is not currently providing testing for COVID-19 on site. There are several reasons for this:

1. Testing supplies are scarce, and The Next Door does not want to divert testing kits from front line facilities, like hospitals, where test results may be critical to determine a treatment plan.
2. The most commonly used test, the nasal swab PCR test, does not provide immediate or conclusive results about viral infection, especially in an asymptomatic person. Because of the time lapse between obtaining the test sample and receiving the results, the information the test gives is not useful in making a decision about admitting a potential client. If The Next Door chose not to admit a client until the test results were received, there would also be no way of ensuring a client had not come into contact with the virus in the time between the test and the delivery of the results.
3. The COVID-19 antibody tests provide more immediate results, but only reveal which, if any, antibodies are present. The presence of antibodies is presumed to be evidence of immunity but does not guarantee that a person is no longer infectious.
4. Though other rapid tests have been developed, there is still relatively little evidence and experience to be sure how to use their results to guide treatment decisions.

Please know that The Next Door continues to take this situation seriously. We are still screening every potential client for symptoms, and symptomatic clients are required to have negative tests and resolution of symptoms prior to admission. Staff are screened daily upon entrance into the building. All staff members have access to a bleach cleaning solution to frequently disinfect their workspaces. Our cleaning company has increased their services as well. We are grateful at this point to say that any clients and staff who have been sent to testing centers have had negative test results. Our response plan is constantly being evaluated and modified based on new information. Please continue to check our website for updates.

See the following article for more information: [Interpreting Diagnostic Tests for SARS-CoV-2](#)