

# GOT SYMPTOMS?

## Sometimes it takes more than one test to detect Covid-19

### THE QUESTION:

I tested negative for COVID even though I have symptoms. So I don't have COVID, right?

### THE ANSWER:

Not necessarily. It might be too soon for a COVID test to detect the virus.

### WHY? WHAT HAS CHANGED?

We're seeing more people with symptoms who test negative for a few times before testing positive.

You can develop symptoms 1 to 3 days before testing positive or becoming infectious to others. While it's not yet clear why this happens, one theory is that people who've had the virus previously or who have been vaccinated may have a quicker immune response to the virus which produces symptoms even when the viral load is still too low to be detected by tests.

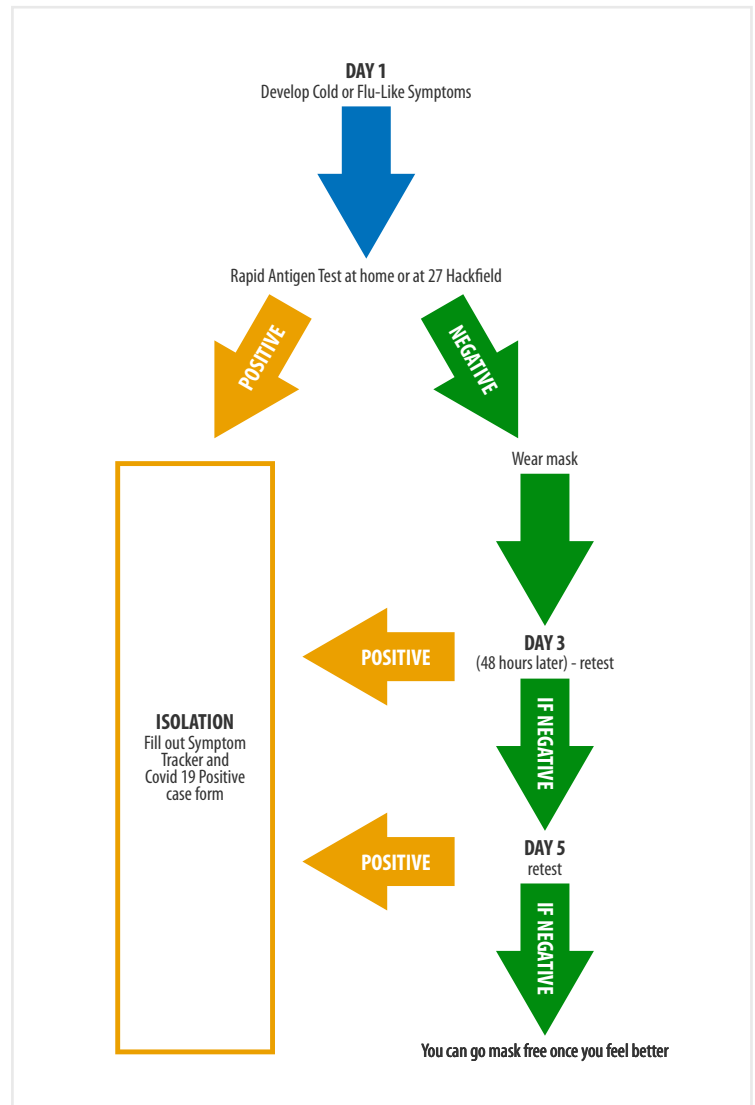
### BOTTOM LINE:

If you are newly symptomatic and your rapid antigen test is negative, you may still have COVID-19.

### WHAT TO DO:

- Wear a mask if you have symptoms.
- Avoid large gatherings.
- Test yourself at least **two more times** with a rapid antigen test (available free at 27 Hackfeld):
  - Test 3 days after your symptoms started
  - Test again 5 days after your symptoms started if the test on day 3 is negative
  - (If you can't test on day 3 and 5, don't worry; test as close to those days as you can.)
  - You may test more frequently if you'd like.
- If you test positive on a rapid antigen test at home, report it on the Symptom Tracker to receive additional instructions.
- Continue with routine testing at Harrington Auditorium if you test negative.

### WHAT IF I DEVELOP SYMPTOMS?



Keep in mind COVID symptoms can mimic cold, flu, and allergy symptoms. *When in doubt, check it out: get a COVID test.*

Tests can be picked up at 27 Hackfeld Monday through Friday from 8 am to 11 am and 2 pm to 4 pm.

Students can call Health Services at 508-831-5520 with questions; employees can call their healthcare provider.

