

St. Paul Testing Site Will Offer Free Saliva COVID Tests to Anyone Who Needs It

The Minnesota Department of Health is offering Minnesotans more and different options for COVID-19 testing by offering saliva testing in a growing number of locations across the state. The test is more comfortable than a nasal swab, and available at no cost to anyone who believes they need a COVID-19 test.

- Saliva testing is free and available to all Minnesotans who believe they need to be tested, with or without symptoms.
- Identification is not required. You do need to have an email address and phone number to receive your results.
- Insurance is not required. If you do have insurance, you will need to show your card. The test is completely free whether or not you have insurance, and you will not receive a bill.
- Saliva testing may not be right for those with low saliva production, such as children under age 4 or someone who has suffered a stroke.

Roy Wilkins Auditorium, next to Saint Paul RiverCentre
175 W. Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55102

- COVID-19 testing parking and entrance [map \(PDF\)](#)
- Free parking is available on the roof of the RiverCentre ramp. If that is full, metered parking is available in Rice Park.
- Entrances:
 - Skyway from the RiverCentre parking ramp, follow signs
 - Doors by the main RiverCenter sign at 175 W. Kellogg Blvd., follow signs
 - Rice Park entrance on Washington Street near Herb Brooks statue, follow signs

Monday-Friday: 12-7:00 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday: 10-4:00 p.m.

[Schedule appointment with Vault Health](#)

What to expect at the testing site:

- Wear a mask or face covering if you can.
- If you made an appointment ahead of time, you can show either your confirmation email/text or tell staff your name, birthdate, and address. Plan to arrive close to the time of your scheduled visit. If you did not make an appointment ahead of time, you can register at the event.
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- Bring your insurance card if you have health insurance. The test will be 100% free whether or not you have insurance. If you do, we may ask your insurance company to help pay for your test.

How the saliva test works:

- You must not eat, drink, chew or smoke anything for at least 30 minutes before taking a saliva test.
- A health care professional will tell you how to take the test, but you will do it yourself.
- You will spit into a funnel attached to a tube. Producing the required amount of saliva usually takes 10-12 minutes.
- You will get your results in about 48-72 hours.