How does the testing process work?
The test is non-invasive. After checking in with a collection site staff member, each individual receives a small collection vial. The person deposits a small amount of saliva into the vial by drooling. The person then places the vial in a collection rack and exits the collection site. The collection process is usually completed within a few minutes.

How long will it take to receive results?
It takes less than 24 hours.

How reliable is the saliva test?
In a clinical study submitted to the Food & Drug Administration, the saliva test was shown to have a positive percent agreement of 95.8% and a negative percent agreement of 98.9%. High accuracy combined with frequent testing makes the saliva-based test extremely reliable.

What is the protocol for testing in people who have been previously diagnosed with COVID-19?
Those individuals should continue testing. Some will continue to be positive, but the lab has an automated process to compare them to a list of former infections and assess whether it’s a potential reinfection.

Should you test after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine?
Yes. The vaccines will not cross-react with the test in any way. Additionally, people who have been vaccinated should continue to test because they can still transmit the virus to others.

What assurances are there that your test is safe and reliable?
This test was developed in partnership with the University of Illinois, which has performed a similar test more than 1.5 million times on its campuses since July 2020. It is performed as a lab-developed test (LDT) within a CLIA-certified lab. This means the lab meets federal standards for quality and reliability, and that the lab’s CLIA director has certified that the test does what it claims to do.

Does this test identify variants of the virus that cause COVID-19?
This PCR test identifies three strands of RNA in this particular coronavirus (N, S, and ORF1ab genes), compared to most tests that only test for one gene. This allows for identification of individuals who have the British variant, in which the S gene “drops out” of virus detection.

Is my personal information protected?
Individuals receive their test results through the Safer Community app, which was created by ROKMETRO, a University of Illinois spinoff. The mobile lab uses the latest AES 256 encryption technology to protect sensitive personal data. All data are maintained within the United States on Amazon servers, and positive test results are shared directly with the local public health department that has jurisdiction.

**Why do I need to provide demographic information and my birthdate?**
The laboratory that processes the tests needs to identify the sample to the individual that provided the sample and they require your date of birth. In addition, all positive test results must be reported to the local health department with jurisdiction, and demographic information is often required for this reporting process.