



SUNCOAST

AMPLIFYING WHAT WORKS  
COVID-19 RESPONSE

Charlotte  
DeSoto  
Manatee  
Sarasota

Through the COVID-19 Response initiative at The Patterson Foundation, this weekly Amplify communication aims to weave together what works in each of the counties for a healthier and more thriving Suncoast. You're receiving this message because you've been identified as a community advocate, and we hope you'll share these stories and messages far and wide in your network.

### When should you get tested for COVID-19?

While COVID-19 has persisted over the last 18 months, the guidelines of when to get tested have fluctuated. The Center for Disease Control attempts to clarify the confusion surrounding COVID-19 testing. The following are in need of a COVID-19 test:

- People who have symptoms of COVID
  - Fever or chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea
- Most people who had close contact (within 6 feet for 15 minutes) with someone with confirmed COVID-19
  - Fully-vaccinated people should be tested 3-5 days following known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test.
  - People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past three months and recovered do not need a new test as long as they do not have symptoms.
- Unvaccinated people who have taken part in activities that put them at higher risk for COVID-19.
- People who have been asked or referred to get tested by their healthcare provider.

### What are your COVID testing options?

COVID-19 tests can test for current infection or past infection. There are two general categories of tests. A [viral test](#) tells you if you have a current infection. Viral tests include the following:

- **PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) Test:** The test is done using saliva or a swab from your nose or throat. You can get results the same day within 20 minutes or up to 3 days.
- **Rapid Antigen Test:** The test is done using saliva or a swab from your nose or throat. You can get results the same day rapidly, around 15 minutes or less.

An [antibody test](#) is a blood test that determines if you had a past infection. Antibody tests do not diagnose a current infection. The test is done by drawing a blood sample from your arm or a finger stick. You can get results in up to 3 days.

[Self home tests](#) are also available. Some require a nasal specimen and other tests require a saliva specimen. These self-collection kits and tests are available either by prescription or over the counter, without a prescription, in a pharmacy or retail store. They are used to detect current infection. Self-home tests may not always be accepted as a valid form of testing. Be sure to check any testing rules or requirements when getting tested for work, school, or travel purposes.

### CONTACT US

Please forward this to your network, and when you have stories about overcoming and thriving during COVID-19, please send them to Hannah Saeger Karnei at:

[HSaegerKarnei@thepattersonfoundation.org](mailto:HSaegerKarnei@thepattersonfoundation.org)



#COVID19  
@ThePattersonFdn



Graphic [Link](#).



### Where can I get tested?

Each county has a combination of permanent and rotating testing sites. We have listed no coast options provided by county health departments below. Testing is also widely available at commercial pharmacies, call ahead to confirm.

#### DeSoto County

DeSoto County Health Department 1031 East Oak Street  
863-491-7580 x140, x250 X102  
PCR only. M-F 8am - 5pm 863-491-7580 x140, x250 X102  
Do not enter building, call and will meet outside at entrance B. (car side swabbing)

#### Charlotte County

Mid-County Regional Library Parking Lot  
2050 Forrest Nelson Blvd., Port Charlotte  
No cost. No appointments. Appointment bookings can be made ahead of time on the Curative website. PCR Test, Mon-Thur 10am - 7pm and Fri-Sat 10am - 6pm

#### Manatee County

Bradenton Area Convention Center  
1 Habon Boulevard  
Palmetto, FL 34221  
PCR and Rapid Test available  
Daily, 7am - 7pm

#### Sarasota County

5400 Bradenton Road,  
Sarasota, FL 34234  
Both PCR and Rapid Tests: Monday - Saturday: 9am - 5pm  
OR  
Ed Smith Stadium  
2700 12th Street,  
Sarasota, FL 34237  
PCR Tests Only: 7 Days a Week 9am - 5pm

### Suncoast COVID-19 Stats Week of September 6, 2021

| COUNTY    | 7 Day Rolling Ave. of Daily New Cases | A Population ^12 with at Least One Vaccination Dose |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Charlotte | 180 😊 last wk: 187                    | 71% 😊   |
| DeSoto    | 60 😞 last wk: 51                      | 54% 😊   |
| Manatee   | 438 😊 last wk: 498                    | 65% 😊   |
| Sarasota  | 410 😊 last wk: 482                    | 74% 😊   |

COVID-19 is not going away any time soon. Recently, cases in Southwest Florida and the four county region have **spiked** as a result of the delta variant. Encourage your family, friends, stakeholders, clients, and others to get vaccinated. [Getting vaccinated](#) is the best protection against the variants, including delta.