Oh! Me first! I want to get tested!

...but wait,

Why are there 2 Kinds of Tests?
OH MY! We didn’t properly introduce ourselves?!?

GAH! How rude!
Peter and I are actually the same kind of swab—but we administer different types of COVID-19 tests. I specialize in rapid antigen tests.
And I specialize in PCR Tests!

"PCR" stands for "polymerase chain reaction."

Both tests can be administered to someone with or without symptoms. And both tests can be taken with a shallow nasal swab. ...
LIKE US!
So... what makes these tests so different?

Well we each hunt for different parts of the SARS-CoV-2* virus.

That's the virus that causes COVID-19.

PCR tests hunt for genetic evidence of the virus.

And rapid antigen tests hunt for protein fragments specific to the virus.
Sooooooo... you know I'm Eight, right?

I'm into learning new things... but none of that made sense to me...
OH!

sorry, Brennon!

Thanks for letting us know we weren’t being clear!

hey, Pete!

yes, Rachel?

I think it might be time for a side-by-side!
Let's compare the different tests!

RACHEL RAPID SWAB
RAPID ANTIGEN TEST

PCR PETER PCR TEST
POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION

How are samples collected?

NASAL SWAB

NASAL SWAB
Rapid Antigen Test

How long does it take to get results?

15 minutes

I'm Fast!!!

Why is one test FAST and one test SLOW?

People with no specialized training can administer Rapid Antigen Tests and read the results within 15-20 minutes.

PCR Test

PCR TEST

Polymerase Chain Reaction

12 hours to 5 days

PCR tests must be sent to a lab to be tested by a skilled technician with specialized equipment.
I’m approved as an **Over-the-Counter** test too! That means that you can use me at home and get fast results. Through the Washington State say yes to the COVID test program, households can order up to 10 free tests per month that are shipped directly to their homes.
**RAPID ANTIGEN TEST**

A rapid test tells you if the virus is present in **high concentrations** and if you are likely to be contagious!

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**PCR TEST**

A PCR test tells you if there is even the slightest amount of viral genetic material in your system.

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**RAPID TESTS ARE MOST ACCURATE IN PEOPLE WHO HAVE SYMPTOMS OF THE VIRUS & HAVE A LOT OF THE VIRUS IN THEIR SYSTEM.**

However, rapid tests are less accurate for people who do not have symptoms or are in the early stages of the virus.

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**PCR TESTS ARE NEARLY 100% ACCURATE.**

They are the **GOLD STANDARD** in diagnosing coronavirus. #GOLDSTANDARD!
Why is one test more accurate than the other?

Rapid tests are less accurate than PCR tests because they detect **Protein Fragments**, known as **Antigens**. Antigens are less detectable in the early and late stages of infection, and in people with mild cases of COVID-19. This results in a less accurate test.

PCR tests provide more accurate results than rapid tests because they use a **Polymerase Chain Reaction** (PCR) to identify even the smallest traces of the **Viral Genetic Material** of COVID-19. The PCR test can detect this material at all stages of infection, making it very accurate for anyone with an active infection, even those without symptoms.
When should you take each type of test?

**WHEN SHOULD I TAKE A RAPID ANTIGEN TEST**

★ IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

★ IF YOU NEED IMMEDIATE RESULTS

**WHEN SHOULD I TAKE A PCR TEST**

★ IF YOU HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID-19, REGARDLESS OF YOUR VACCINATION STATUS. You should get tested at least 5 DAYS after your date of exposure.

★ IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 BUT HAD A NEGATIVE RAPID TEST.
WHOA.
That's a lot of information!
But it makes sense!
The most important thing to remember is that Rachel and I work together as a team, Brennon! She's waaaaaay faster than I am, so she can help people who need results fast.
But I have a GOLD MEDAL in ACCURACY — So I’m able to give people lots of confidence that their results are CORRECT!

I have to admit... I was jealous of Peter’s GOLD MEDAL at first...

I really wanted to be that ACCURATE.
I didn’t know that, Rachel! I’ve always wished I was as FAST as you! You’re so important to keep schools open. We couldn’t do it without you. I talk about my GOLD MEDAL in ACCURACY so much just to keep up with you...
I didn't realize you felt that way!

Oh 100%!

You make test to stay possible and keep sports teams safe!
I’m so HAPPY we’re on the SAME Team!
Well, that was beautiful! When it comes to combatting COVID, you can't just rely on one tool. You need all the tools in the toolbox! Rapid antigen tests, masks, vaccines, PCR tests, and distancing!
Now let's get you tested!

Yes!

Ready?
Hope that doesn’t tickle too much, Bren! Hey, guess what? I’m getting **vaccinated** next week!

I don’t know how vaccines work, but I’m pretty sure that means I **never** have to get tested again!

hmmm...
SPOILER ALERT!
Getting vaccinated doesn’t mean Brody won’t have to get tested again!

Vaccines & Testing work together — with masks & distancing — to keep students, teachers & staff safe and schools open full time in person!