



## FAQs – Pooltests for all

### 1. How much does the test cost?

The cost of having a pooled PCR saliva test is CHF 36.00. This includes the issuing of a certificate. Payment is made directly through the platform during the registration process (by VISA, Mastercard, Maestro or TWINT) and is not possible at the testing site.

Testing is free of charge for specific individuals as per the current Covid ordinance.

### 2. Where can I get tested?

The PCR saliva test can be carried out by participating pharmacies, doctor's surgeries, home healthcare services, laboratories and test centres through Switzerland. The testing sites are listed by postcode on the platform; this list is updated continuously.

### 3. Will I receive a Covid certificate?

If a pool tests negative, all persons in this pool automatically receive a COVID certificate by e-mail along with the result. The certificate is valid for 72 hours from the time the sample was taken. The issuing of the certificate is included in the test costs.

If the pool result is positive, an individual confirmatory test (PCR or rapid antigen test) can be carried out free of charge at the same or another testing site referred by the former. The costs are covered by the federal government. If the confirmatory test is negative, the test site issues a Covid certificate.

### 4. What is the validity of the certificate?

The Covid certificate is valid for 72 hours from the time the sample is collected. It is valid for travel, except of course for countries that do not accept the Swiss certificate.

### 5. Does the certificate cost extra?

No, the issuing of a certificate is included in the cost of the test.

### 6. How long does it take until the result is available?

The result is usually available within 24 hours of the pooled sample being received by the laboratory and is sent to you via email.

### 7. Which laboratory will my sample be sent to?

We work with a large number of laboratories throughout Switzerland as part of the «Pool tests for all» project. The testing site will send your sample to the nearest partner laboratory to ensure that the result time is as short as possible.

### 8. What kind of test is carried out and how long does it take?

Pooled PCR saliva tests are used for the testing process. You will receive a test kit at the testing site, which includes an ampoule of saline solution and a sample tube. You will pour the saline solution from the ampoule into your mouth, rinse with it for 60 seconds (like when using mouthwash) and then transfer the liquid into the sample tube, which you will seal and return to the testing site.

The test is carried out under supervision. Your sample will then be mixed with samples from other people to create a so-called pooled sample.

### 9. What does the ampoule with saline solution contain?

The ampoules used are sealed airtight and contain sterile saline solution. These ampoules are also used in other areas of healthcare. The information inserts of the various manufacturers are available [here](#).

### 10. How many individual samples are mixed together?

A maximum of ten individual samples are mixed together to form a pooled sample, which is then analysed in a laboratory.

**11. What do I need to bring with me when I get tested?**

On site, you must prove your identity by means of a passport or ID. If the test costs are covered by the federal government or your health insurance, you must also show your health insurance card. If you cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons, you also need to bring your medical certificate.

**12. What if the test result is positive?**

If a pool result is positive or invalid (which happens in rare cases), the tested persons can perform an individual retest (PCR or rapid antigen test). Ideally, this retesting should take place at the same testing site. However, all providers throughout Switzerland who offer this service (pharmacies, medical practices, test centres, laboratories, etc.) can also be used.

**Retesting is free of charge and a COVID certificate is issued by the testing site in case of a negative result.**

To prove that the person has been in a positive or invalid pool, he/she must show the receipt of his/her registration for the pool test (A4 document, sent by e-mail with the registration), as well as passport/ID for identity control and the health insurance card for billing.

**13. What if I do not live in Switzerland?**

People who do not live in Switzerland can also get tested, but they must cover the costs themselves in any case. They can possibly claim back the test costs via their health insurance.

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## For testing sites

**14. Is my business eligible as a testing site?**

According to the Covid ordinance, laboratories, pharmacies, doctor's surgeries and home healthcare services are permitted to act as testing sites.

**15. How do I know if the person requiring a test has paid?**

The person to be tested can only register for a test with you if they pay directly through the platform during the registration process (VISA, Mastercard, Maestro, TWINT).

According to the current Covid ordinance, health insurance will cover the cost of a test for certain individuals. In such a case, the person to be tested will enter their health insurance number when registering; you have nothing to do with the billing process. However, you are responsible for checking the date of birth or any medical certificate that may be required.

**16. How is the test compensated?**

Compensation for service provision is set in accordance with the federal ordinance.

Individual retesting is borne by the Confederation and is treated and charged in the same way as the testing of a symptomatic person.

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**17. Where can I get help with further questions?**

You can reach the hotline for «Pooltests for all» at [pooltests@togetherwetest.ch](mailto:pooltests@togetherwetest.ch) or by telephone on 0800 786 257 (weekdays, 08:00-18:00).