



## Cell phone apps for COVID-19

New laptop and phone apps have been developed to help diagnose COVID-19. They are based on audio recordings -- the coughs of people with infected lungs sound different. Also, COVID-19 patients tend to get breathless, have runny noses, somewhat sore throats, and tire easily. All of these will affect the way they speak. As with any novel approach, this one is promising but not guaranteed. More users may improve its performance over time. [Carnegie Mellon app here](#); [Cambridge's here](#).

## Is there now COVID-19 testing for those who are aren't showing symptoms?

WellcomeMD offers testing to those who are symptomatic, have had known exposure to the virus and/or those patients over 65 with medical co-morbidities such

as heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, hypertension, diabetes, and some other conditions. Testing may include a nose and throat swab to detect the virus itself, a blood test to detect antibodies, or a combination of these tests based on each individual case.

## **Have we learned if someone can become infected again after they've had COVID-19 and recovered?**

No sure answer yet for this crucial question. The antibody test will tell us if a person has had the virus and has developed antibodies. Historically, antibodies have been synonymous with immunity (protection), so we are hopeful that the same protection will arise with COVID-19. Stay tuned.

## **What percentage of so-called “asymptomatic carriers” never develop the illness?**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has found few truly asymptomatic cases in which a patient tests positive and has zero symptoms for the entire course of the disease. However, there are many cases where people are “pre-symptomatic” -- that is, they have no symptoms at the time when they test positive -- but they go on to develop symptoms later.

## **Does the degree of illness experienced by those who are infected depend on how much exposure to the virus they've had -- the "viral load"?**

Viral load relates to the number of viral particles being carried by an infected individual and shared into the environment. If you have a high viral load you are more likely to infect other people. However, according to some studies, in the case of COVID-19, it doesn't necessarily follow that a higher viral load will lead to more severe symptoms. [Other research](#) shown the opposite results.

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