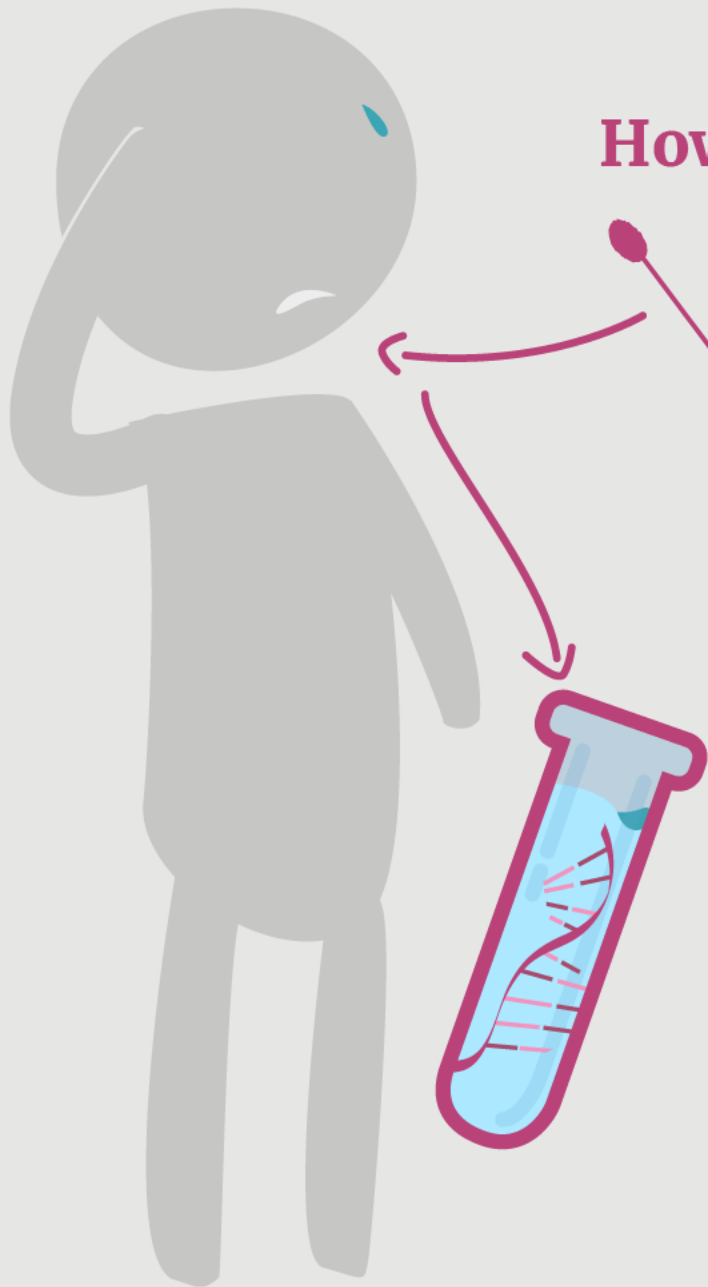


# PCR testing for COVID-19



## How does the test work?

Swabs from the nose and throat...

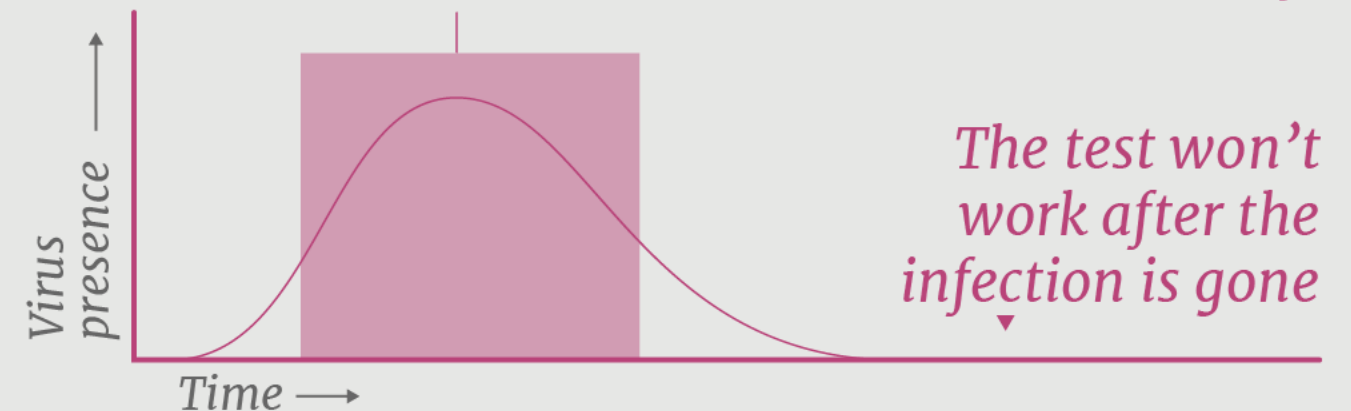
...are used in a lab test to identify the presence of SARS-CoV-2 **genetic material**.

## What does the test tell us?

Who **currently** has an infection, but nothing about someone's immune response.

## When is the test used?

When someone has symptoms to detect an active infection when the virus is in the body.



## How accurate is it?

PCR is an established technique providing a very sensitive test with high accuracy. False negative results are possible if the swab doesn't pick up enough virus.