



RE: Questions about CDC's RT-PCR Test EUA Withdrawal

What happened?

On July 21, 2021, the [CDC announced](#) that it would be withdrawing its request for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for its' Real Time – Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) COVID-19 diagnostic panel (test), after December 31, 2021.

Why did they announce this?

The CDC stated that they wanted to give laboratories who are using their test to switch to another brand of test. There are many other PCR tests which have received authorization and are commercially available. They also wanted to encourage laboratories to use products that would test for both COVID-19 and influenza.

Wait, how many brands of tests have EUA?

Currently, there are [over 200 brands of molecular diagnostic tests](#) which are authorized for the diagnosis of COVID-19.

Do PCR tests work well to detect COVID-19?

Yes. These tests remain the most accurate type of test for COVID-19 diagnosis and confirmation of other types of tests, such as antigen tests. They are considered the gold standard of testing products.

Did they withdraw because it couldn't distinguish between COVID-19 and Influenza?

No. According to Kristen Nordlund from the CDC, "Although the CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019 nCoV) Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel met an important unmet need when it was developed and deployed and has not demonstrated any performance issues, the demand for this test has declined with the emergence of other higher-throughput and multiplexed assays. CDC is encouraging public health laboratories (PHL) to adopt the CDC Influenza SARS-CoV-2 (Flu SC2) Multiplex Assay to enable continued surveillance for both influenza and SARS-CoV-2, which will save both time and resources for PHL."

Should I be concerned about the CDC's withdrawal of this product from the test market?

No. Because there are many, many other brands of tests available which are capable of meeting testing demand, this is not a concern for consumers.

Why are people concerned about this?

There has been significant misinformation posted on various social media platforms about this topic. See [this article from Factcheck.org](#) for more information.