

Slow test results hampering U.S. fight against COVID-19

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(HealthDay)—Test results for the new coronavirus are taking so long

that they are doing little to help stop the spread of the virus in the United States, experts say.

Outbreaks in some Southern states have pushed testing labs beyond capacity, with some having difficulty providing results in five to seven days and others taking even longer, the *Washington Post* reported.

Those delays mean the United States cannot employ the main strategy used by other countries to contain the virus: test, trace, and isolate.

"Instead of going from one step to the next, it's like you're already stumbling right out of the gate," Crystal Watson, Dr.P.H., a public health expert at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, told the *Post*. "It makes contact tracing almost useless. By the time a person is getting results, they already have symptoms, their contacts may already have symptoms and have gone on to infect others."

More information: [Washington Post Article](#)

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