

Allergy Testing FAQ's

What does allergy testing consist of?

- We perform testing with small plastic pricks that are dipped in allergy serum.
- You will feel a small, quick scratch at each individual allergen testing site. You may have the option of testing on your forearm or back.
- The allergen drops you are being tested for will sit on your skin for 15 minutes. During that time you are unable to cover, scratch or touch the testing site.
- After 15 minutes the nurse will re-enter the room to read your results.
- If you are positive to an allergen you will develop a hive at the site where we performed the scratch.
- If any of these tests are positive, we won't test further for these allergens.
- If any of the tests come out negative, the next step is to inject small amounts of the allergen under the top layer of your skin on your upper arm. It will take 15 minutes for these to develop. (Food testing will not have this second step but rather a blood draw to check the allergy levels in your blood). Afterwards, the doctor will come in to review the results.

Does it hurt?

Every patient is different. You may feel some discomfort during testing but it will not last past the procedure.

What will happen if I react?

The area will be a little raised and itchy; similar to a mosquito bite. We will apply hydrocortisone cream for the itch and you may also have an antihistamine when the test is completed.