

Finding Your Correct LOINC Code

LOINC code is a unique identifying value for lab tests. If you are unfamiliar with LOINC, think of the code as a unique name that helps our software and epidemiologists distinguish between all the different types of SARS-CoV-2 tests that are being conducted. This is important because epidemiologists use this information to conduct case investigations, and our computer system uses it to catalog every lab result submitted to the state. Below are basic instructions for identifying the LOINC code that corresponds to the lab tests you are conducting.

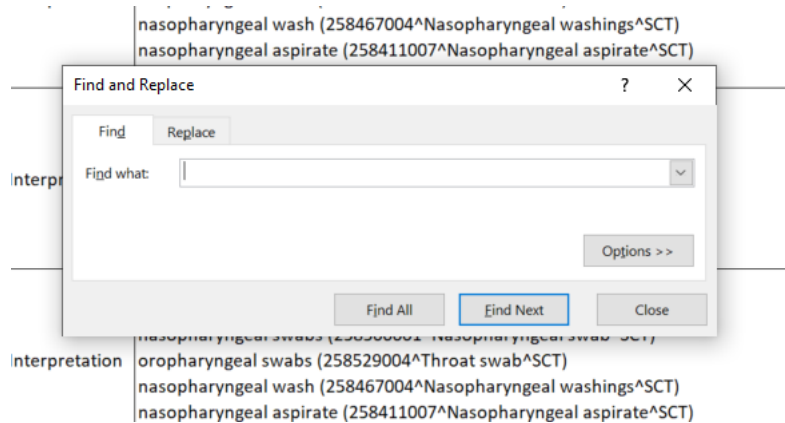
1. Choose Ctrl and Click to follow link or copy and paste it into your browser: <https://www.cdc.gov/csels/dls/sars-cov-2-livd-codes.html>
2. Click on the link next to “Mapping tool” to download the Excel document titled “LIVD SARS-CoV-2 Test Codes.xlsx”.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.cdc.gov/csels/dls/sars-cov-2-livd-codes.html>. The page is titled "LOINC In Vitro Diagnostic (LIVD) Test Code Mapping for SARS-CoV-2 Tests". It includes a search bar, a navigation menu, and a main content area with a paragraph of text and a download link for "LIVD SARS-CoV-2 Test Codes.xlsx". The text states: "On June 4, 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced new laboratory data reporting guidance for COVID-19 testing. Using LOINC and SNOMED-CT to identify and report SARS-CoV-2 test results in electronic reporting systems will facilitate timely and quality data reporting to state and federal public health agencies. The following document (developed per the LIVD specification) provides LOINC and SNOMED mappings for SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic tests available in the United States. The LIVD mapping catalogue provides coding for these data elements: LOINC test order, LOINC test result, SNOMED-CT test description, SNOMED-CT specimen source, and Device Identifier." Below the text is a link for the mapping tool and the publication date: "LIVD publication date 2020-10-05." At the bottom, there is a note: "CDC and its partners will review and update this tool as needed for new or discontinued tests. For more information or to contact CDC about this tool, email DLSinquiries@cdc.gov and use 'LIVD Test Code Mapping Tool' in the subject line."

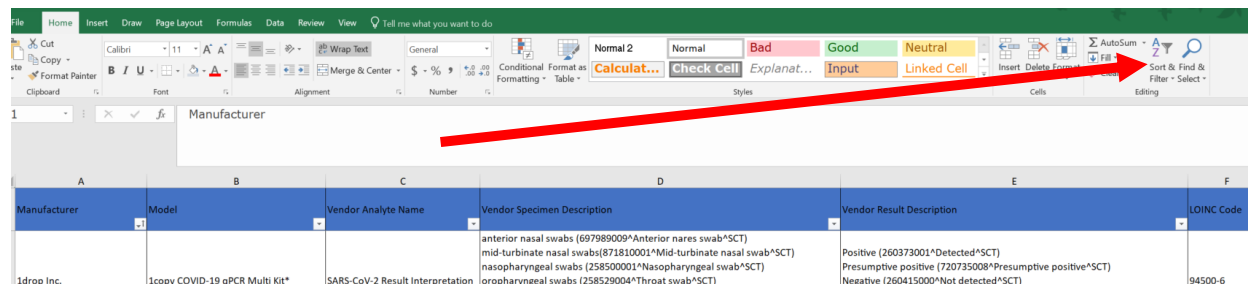
3. You should check back on this website weekly to see if there have been any updates by checking the LIVD publication date underneath the download link.
4. After downloading the file to your computer, open the file in Excel.
5. Look at the bottom of the file – there should be several tabs to choose from. Click on the tab called “LIVD Publication”. This will take you to a sheet that lists most available devices used for COVID-19 testing and each of their corresponding LOINC codes.

The screenshot shows the bottom of an Excel spreadsheet with several tabs. The first tab, "LIVD Publication", is highlighted in green and has a red arrow pointing to it. Other tabs include "Acronyms", "LOINC Mapping", "Background information", and "LOINC Mapping (".

6. Now you can search this sheet for the device you are using. The easiest way to do this is to search for the manufacturer of the test – this should be located somewhere on the packaging of the test or on a device itself.
7. Once you have found the manufacturer name, hit Ctrl and F on your keyboard at the same time to pull up a search bar. Alternatively, you can click on the “Find & Select” function on the Excel toolbar, and then click “Find”.
 - a. Search tool



b. "Find & Select"



8. Type in the manufacturer in the search bar and hit Enter on your keyboard. This will take you to the first row on the spreadsheet where your manufacturer is listed. You will see in the second row the models of test kits/devices from the manufacturer.
9. Scroll until you find the test kit or device you are using (and make sure it is next to the right manufacturer). Then, scroll or look to the right until you find the corresponding LOINC code (not LOINC order code). **THIS IS THE LOINC CODE YOU ENTER IN THE LOINC CODE COLUMN OF YOUR CSV FILE.**
10. Look one more cell to the right and you will see the LOINC long name (not LOINC order code long name). **THIS IS THE TEXT YOU ENTER IN THE LOINC TEXT COLUMN OF YOUR CSV FILE (make sure to remove any commas, if any).**