

Pediatric Pulmonary Function Testing

What is a Pulmonary Function Test (PFT)?

A pulmonary function test is a series of breathing tests performed by a respiratory therapist. The tests will measure how well your child's lungs are working.

The pulmonary function test does **NOT** hurt. There are **NO** needles.

Your child must be prepared to cooperate and follow specific instructions in order to perform the test. Your child must be 6 years of age or older to have this test done.



What to do before a pulmonary function test?

If your child is taking medications for breathing you may be asked to stop certain medications prior to the test. Please check your child's appointment letter for specific details on recommended stop time for the medications they may be taking.

How to prepare your child for a Pulmonary Function Test?

Make sure your child knows what to expect. The pulmonary function test requires cooperation and the ability to follow instructions. Tell your child that they will have to do some breathing exercises.

How is a pulmonary function test done?

Your child will go to a room called the pulmonary function lab. One parent may accompany their child to the lab. Your child's height and weight will be measured and the respiratory therapist may ask about your child's breathing medications. Your child will then sit down in a booth in front of a long tube attached to a computer.

Your child will be asked to wear nose clips to make sure that they are breathing only from their mouth during the test. Then they will be asked to breathe in and out through a mouthpiece. The computer will then measure how much and how fast air can be blown from your child's lungs.

How long does a pulmonary function test take?

A pulmonary function test can take between 30- 90 minutes, depending on the type of test needed.

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When will I get the results of the pulmonary function test?

A respirologist will review your child's test results. A report will then be sent to your physician. This can take up to 2-3 weeks.

How to schedule a pulmonary function test?

A referral needs to be completed by your physician to have a pulmonary function test done.

Your appointment will be sent in the mail.

To change or cancel an appointment please call 709-777-4552

Pulmonary Function Lab
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