Covid 19 Antibody Test

Antibody tests look at your body's response to SARS-CoV-2. They are very different than the "coronavirus tests" used to diagnose patients with COVID-19, which look for signs that the virus is present in your body.

Antibody tests aren't used to diagnose a current COVID-19 infection. They look for evidence in a patient's bloodstream that the person has been exposed to COVID-19 in the past.

The human immune system responds to an invading virus by producing new antibodies that specifically recognize that virus and help fight it off. Once the virus is gone, these antibodies remain in the bloodstream — standing guard so that they can wipe out the virus quickly if it invades again.

Antibody tests let you know if you have been exposed to SARS-CoV-2. They don't tell you if you are "immune."

A positive result on antibody testing means that the patient's blood contains IgG reactive against SARS-CoV-2. This is a very strong sign that the person has been exposed to the novel coronavirus.

Here's what a positive test DOES NOT mean.

- Having a positive antibody test does not necessarily indicate that an individual is protected against re-infection. Antibody tests give a reading on the amounts of antibodies in a patient's blood.

- Reactive IgG results do not indicate or rule out active infection or asymptomatic carriage. It can take 2-3 weeks, as noted earlier, for the IgG antibodies to develop. It is not yet known whether people who are carriers of SARS-CoV-2 develop an immune response against the virus or not.

- Nonreactive IgG results do not rule out active SARS-CoV-2 infection or indicate that a person may be an asymptomatic carrier, for the reasons noted in the two bullets above.

"We still don't know the correlation between having antibodies and immunity. At this point we can only say that we have some degree of confidence that whoever tested positive was infected with the SARS virus.... We will have that data, but it's not here yet."

The blood antibody test can tell if a patient has been infected and recovered from a COVID-19 infection. Testing positive for these antibodies shows if the patient has already had the coronavirus and may be potentially immune. However, until experts know more on whether or not a patient can become infected more than once, the antibody test cannot conclusively determine if a person is immune to the coronavirus.

Nevertheless, elected officials and health experts agree that both increased viral and antibody testing will help provide the data needed to make critical decisions around reopening the state.

As employers take the next steps towards reopening, we want to help them get a clear picture of those currently infected and those that have been previously infected in their workforce. These tests can give employees some assurance about reporting for work, especially if they have already developed the antibodies for the virus.

Antibodies for the COVID-19 develop 1-2 weeks after becoming infected. However, it is possible to still be actively infected and contagious for a week or more after developing the antibodies. A positive antibody test paired with a negative virus infection test will help conclude if a patient has already had the virus and is no longer actively contagious.

COVID-19 Immune Response

This test checks for a type of antibody called immunoglobulin G (IgG) that is the result of past or recent exposure to COVID-19, also known as the novel coronavirus. The human body produces IgG antibodies as part of the immune response to the virus. It usually takes around 10 to 18 days to produce enough antibodies to be detected in the blood.

Test results may help identify if you were previously exposed to the virus and, if exposed, can check whether or not your body has produced antibodies. Antibodies typically suggest protective immunity after you've recovered or been exposed to COVID-19. However, evidence is still being collected to determine if IgG antibodies provide protective immunity against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 infection.

- If you were never diagnosed with COVID-19, this test can help determine if you may have been previously exposed to the virus.
- If you were diagnosed with COVID-19, this test can check whether or not your body has produced antibodies.

Multiple sources, including the CDC and healthcare experts, recommend you discuss your test results and whether to return to work with your healthcare provider and employer.

This type of test detects antibodies that show if you have already been exposed to and produced an immune response to COVID-19—even if you never experienced symptoms. Previous exposure means you may now have some level of immunity to the virus. Understanding your immune response gives you and your doctor the information to assist in making an informed decision about returning to work or activity.

Immune response testing is available only to patients who are not currently experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and have not experienced symptoms within 10 days. Common COVID-19 symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

This test may be helpful if you:

- Have had a positive test for COVID-19 and it has been at least 7 days and you want to know if you have detectable levels of IgG antibodies
- Have not experienced a fever or felt feverish in the last 3 days
- Have not experienced new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 10 days: loss of smell or taste, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, feeling weak or lethargic, lightheadedness or dizziness, vomiting or diarrhea, slurred speech, and/or seizures

This test may NOT be helpful if you are:

- Feeling sick or have had a fever within the last 3 full days, please contact a healthcare provider
- Trying to diagnose COVID-19, please contact a healthcare provider
- Less than 7 days since being tested for and diagnosed with COVID-19
- Directly exposed to COVID-19 in the past 14 days
- A person with a compromised immune system, a condition that makes it difficult to fight infections

Note: This test can sometimes detect antibodies from other coronaviruses, which can cause a false positive result if you have been previously diagnosed with or exposed to other types of coronaviruses. Additionally, if you test too soon, your body may not have produced enough IgG antibodies to be detected by the test yet, which can lead to a false negative result.

At this time, antibody testing is mainly used in studies to determine how much of the population has been exposed to COVID-19. There is not enough evidence at this time to suggest that people who have IgG antibodies are protected against future COVID-19 infection. Positive or negative antibody tests do not rule out the possibility of COVID-19 infection. Results also do not provide any information on whether you can spread the virus to others.

*While the role of antibodies in preventing COVID-19 disease has yet to be established, antibody testing for other respiratory illnesses (SARS, flu) provides insight into immunity to future diseases.

Question:

What does it mean if the specimen tests NEGATIVE for the virus that causes COVID-19? A negative test result for this test means that SARS-CoV-2 RNA was not detected in the specimen. However, a negative result does not completely rule out COVID-19 and should not be used as the sole basis for treatment or patient management decisions. When diagnostic testing is negative, the possibility of a false negative result should be considered in the context of any recent exposure and clinical signs or symptoms that may suggest COVID-19. The possibility of a false negative result should especially be considered if COVID-19 is clinically likely and diagnostic tests for other causes of illness (e.g., other respiratory illness) are negative. If COVID-19 is still suspected, re-testing should be considered by healthcare providers in consultation with public health authorities.

Question:

What does it mean if the specimen tests POSITIVE for the virus that causes COVID-19? A positive test result indicates that SARS-CoV-2 RNA was detected, and the patient is presumably infected with the virus and presumably contagious. Laboratory test results should be considered in the clinical and community context to establish a final diagnosis and care plan. Positive results do not rule out simultaneous bacterial infection or co-infection with other viruses. Patient management decisions should be made by a healthcare provider and should follow current CDC guidelines. The COVID-19 test has been designed to minimize the likelihood of false positive test results, but it may not be possible to completely exclude a false positive.

Positive Results

You will be notified on positive results. Positive results will also be reported to the state Health Department where the patient resides therefore it is important that we have the patient's current address.

The test is intended for use as an aid in identifying individuals with an adaptive immune response to SARS-CoV-2, indicating recent or prior infection. Results are for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies. IgG antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 are generally detectable in blood several days after initial infection, although the duration of time antibodies are present post-infection is not well characterized. At this time, it is unknown for how long antibodies persist following infection and if the presence of antibodies confers protective immunity. Individuals may have detectable virus present for several weeks following having IgG antibodies. Negative results do not rule out acute SARS-CoV-2 infection. If acute infection is suspected, testing with a SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR is necessary. The test should not be used to diagnose acute SARS-CoV-2 infection. False positive results for the test may occur due to cross-reactivity from pre-existing antibodies or other possible causes. This test has not been reviewed by the FDA.

Positive results do not rule out bacterial infection or co-infection with other viruses. The agent detected may not be the definite cause of disease. Negative results do not preclude SARS-CoV-2 infection and should not be used as the sole basis for treatment or other patient management decisions. Negative results must be combined with clinical observations, patient history, and epidemiological information.

Antibody Vaccine Study

Plasma contain antibodies. Preliminary studies show these antibodies can be helpful to hospitalized COVID-19 patients by lessening the severity of the case.

East Alabama Medical Center and LifeSouth Community Blood Centers are partnering by participating in a national clinical trial that would help COVID-19 patients recover more quickly.

Recovered COVID-19 patients who are interested must meet the following criteria:

-A laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.

-Complete recovery, i.e. no symptoms without fever- or symptom-reducing medication for at least 14 days before the donation.

-If it has been fewer than 28 days since completion of symptoms, donors must have a documented negative result by one or more nasal swab specimens or a molecular diagnostic blood test.

-If neither of these tests was performed, a positive antibody test confirming the patient has COVID-19 antibodies is acceptable.

Eligible donors should register at https://lifesouth.bio-linked.org/, and LifeSouth will contact those who register directly.

For questions regarding donation, email LifeSouth at medicaloffice@lifesouth.org or call (888) 795-2707. Let them know you are donating to East Alabama Medical Center.

Covid 19 Antibody Test

- This is a blood test — not a nose swab.
- This is NOT a rapid, "cassette," finger prick test that was made in China.
- This is a blood draw test that will be taken by a trained Phlebotomist. Your blood is then sent to a state licensed, CLIA approved, clinical laboratory that is accredited by the College of American Pathologists.

Antibody testing requires about one tube of blood — 5 milliliters. The testing itself is done on the blood serum — the liquid portion of the blood — which is why these tests are also known as serology tests.

Safeguarding your health

Face masks are required for both customers and employees. Gloves and hand sanitizer are provided at check-in. A greeter will use a no-contact technique to take your temperature when you enter. Plus, our staff will be wearing added protective face masks and clothing.

More frequent cleaning

We have implemented more frequent cleaning routines, including sanitizing between each patient and daily deep cleaning. And all employees are washing their hands more frequently for at least 20 seconds.

Test results are typically available within 3 days, but turnaround time can vary due to high demand.

IgG Covid Antibody Test

$109

IgM IgG Covid Antibody Test

$179