

COVID-19 ANTIBODY TESTING



What is COVID-19 antibody testing?

Antibody testing checks your blood to look for evidence that your immune system has seen the COVID-19 virus. *This test is not approved by the FDA at this time.*

What is it testing?

You will receive two results. One for Immunoglobulin G (IgG) and the other for Immunoglobulin M (IgM).

What is the difference between the IgG and IgM?

If you are IgM positive, this is suggestive of recent or current infection. If you are IgM negative and IgG positive, this suggests that your immune system has seen the COVID-19 virus in the past.

What does it mean if my antibody test is negative?

If both of these are negative, your immune system has not responded to the COVID-19 virus. This does **NOT** mean that you are not infected or that you are virus free. You could be infected and contagious but be too early in the disease course to have a positive antibody test, as it takes time for the body to make antibodies. It usually takes one to two weeks for your body to start making antibodies after being exposed to COVID-19.

What does it mean if my antibody test is positive?

A positive test for either IgG or IgM strongly suggests that you have been exposed to the virus. It does not mean you are currently infected. It also does not mean you are immune from future infection with this virus. At this time, we do not yet know if people are immune after infection with COVID-19.

If I test positive what should I do next?

If you are IgM positive, this is suggestive of recent or current infection, and you will need a follow-up consultation with a physician and may need additional testing. After infection, we do not yet know how long immunity will last. Furthermore, we do not yet know which test is most accurate in testing for immunity.

Regardless of your test results, you should continue to take precautions to avoid being infected or re-infected.



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