



COVID-19 SEROLOGY TESTING: SARS Coronavirus-2 IgG Antibody Test

Frequently Asked Questions

What is antibody testing?

Antibody tests, also known as serologic tests, detect antibodies present in the blood when the body is responding or has responded to a specific infection. The COVID-19 serology test is designed to detect antibodies caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus which can cause a mild to severe respiratory illness.

Will this test detect antibodies in everyone who has had COVID-19?

IgG antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 develop between 8 and 14 days post-symptom onset for the majority of patients. Some individuals may develop antibodies after this time frame, while others, particularly those who are immunosuppressed, may never develop a detectable immune response.

Can this test be used to diagnose patients suspected of currently having COVID-19?

No, symptomatic patients should be tested using a respiratory specimen and molecular PCR test. The serology test is intended only to detect the presence of antibodies to the virus, not to diagnose recent or active SARS-CoV-2 infection.

How soon will I receive my results?

You can expect to receive your antibody test results in 3-5 days. The results will be sent to you by mail and can be viewed in your My Chart account.

A physician or nurse will not be contacting you to discuss your results. If you have questions about your test results, please consult with your Primary Care Provider.

What does it mean if I have a positive antibody test result?

A positive result can indicate:

- Recent or prior exposure (infection) to the virus.
- The presence of an immune response that suggests you may be less likely to get infected or re-infected compared to seronegative individuals
- There is also the chance that this test can give a positive result that is wrong. False positive results can occur and may be due to prior infection with another human coronavirus strain that normally circulates in the community (common cold virus).

What does it mean if I have a negative antibody test result?

A negative result can indicate:

- No IgG antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 virus are detected in your sample.
- A negative result may occur if you are tested too soon following infection, or if you are immunocompromised.