Important information about COVID-19 antibody testing

The test is designed to detect antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Antibodies are proteins that the body produces in response to infection. The antibodies can be produced even in a person who has no symptoms during the infection.

It generally takes some time after infection for antibodies to be produced and become detectable in blood (sometimes up to 3 weeks). It is important to remember that we do not yet know whether having antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 will protect against getting the infection again if you are totally free of the virus. Antibodies are generally detectable in the blood for a period of time after a person has recovered from the infection and after the virus that caused the infection is no longer detectable by laboratory methods.

Sometimes the antibodies developed in response to an infection protect us from getting that same infection again. But, it is important to know that we do not yet know whether this is true for COVID-19. Even if you have recovered and have antibodies, there is a chance that you will still have the virus and you can infect others. It is still critical to keep taking measures to avoid getting infected again and/or spreading infection.

The antibody test is not meant for detecting an active infection. The swab test (sometimes also known as a molecular, RNA or PCR test) should be used to test for active infection.

It generally takes some time after infection for antibodies to be produced and become detectable in blood (sometimes up to 3 weeks). It is important to remember that we do not yet know whether having antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 will protect against getting the infection again if you are totally free of the virus. Antibodies are generally detectable in the blood for a period of time after a person has recovered from the infection and after the virus that caused the infection is no longer detectable by laboratory methods.

Sometimes the antibodies developed in response to an infection protect us from getting that same infection again. But, it is important to know that we do not yet know whether this is true for COVID-19. Even if you have recovered and have antibodies, there is a chance that you will still have the virus and you can infect others. It is still critical to keep taking measures to avoid getting infected again and/or spreading infection.

The antibody test is not meant for detecting an active infection. The swab test (sometimes also known as a molecular, RNA or PCR test) should be used to test for active infection.

A negative antibody test result means that antibodies were not detected in your blood sample. This can have several possible meanings. It could mean that:

• You have not been infected with SARS-CoV-2, or
• You have been infected with SARS-CoV-2, but there has been not enough time for antibodies to develop (it can take up to 1 to 3 weeks to develop antibodies after someone is infected, sometimes longer).

A positive antibody test result means that antibodies were detected in your blood sample. This can have several possible meanings. It could mean that:

• You have been infected with SARS-CoV-2 at some point in the past; or
• Unusually, you may have developed antibodies from an earlier infection with a different virus related to SARS-CoV-2 and the laboratory test cannot distinguish between these other virus antibodies and those antibodies generated in response to SARS-CoV-2.

The test is designed to detect antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Antibodies are proteins that the body produces in response to infection. The antibodies can be produced even in a person who has no symptoms during the infection.

It generally takes some time after infection for antibodies to be produced and become detectable in blood (sometimes up to 3 weeks). It is important to remember that we do not yet know whether having antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 will protect against getting the infection again if you are totally free of the virus. Antibodies are generally detectable in the blood for a period of time after a person has recovered from the infection and after the virus that caused the infection is no longer detectable by laboratory methods.

Sometimes the antibodies developed in response to an infection protect us from getting that same infection again. But, it is important to know that we do not yet know whether this is true for COVID-19. Even if you have recovered and have antibodies, there is a chance that you will still have the virus and you can infect others. It is still critical to keep taking measures to avoid getting infected again and/or spreading infection.

The antibody test is not meant for detecting an active infection. The swab test (sometimes also known as a molecular, RNA or PCR test) should be used to test for active infection.