

UNDERSTANDING THE COVID-19 ANTIBODY TEST

Antibody tests check your blood looking for antibodies which may tell you if you had an infection in the PAST. They DO NOT tell you if you are currently infected.

To see if you are currently infected, you need to wait for the results of a viral test. Viral tests identify the virus in samples from your respiratory system, such as a swab from the inside of your nose. These results can take up to 2 weeks.

WHAT DOES A POSITIVE ANTIBODY TEST MEAN?

A positive test result shows you may have antibodies from a previous infection with the virus that causes COVID-19. You may test positive for antibodies even if you have never had symptoms of COVID-19. This can happen if you had an infection without symptoms, which is called an asymptomatic infection. You should continue to protect yourself and others since you could get infected with the virus again

WHAT DOES A NEGATIVE ANTIBODY TEST MEAN?

A negative test results shows that you may not have had COVID-19 in the past, but you could have a current infection. Since the antibody test doesn't tell us if you are currently infected (only a viral test can do that) you have to wait for the viral test results to come back.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?



While you wait for your viral test results, monitor your symptoms and take steps to prevent the spread by wearing a mask, avoiding close contact with others and washing your hands often for at least 20 seconds. If symptoms worsen or new symptoms appear call the clinic or your primary care provider.

LOOK FOR EMERGENCY WARNING SIGNS* FOR COVID-19

If someone is showing any of these signs, seek emergency medical care immediately:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion/Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face



*This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you. Call 911 or call ahead to your local emergency facility: Notify the operator that you are seeking care for someone who has or may have COVID-19.