
COVID-19 Antibody (Serological) Testing

According to the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov), serology testing is used to detect **previous infection** (antibodies to COVID-19) in people who may have been exposed to the virus. Antibodies are proteins produced by the body's immune system to attack and kill viruses, bacteria, and other microbes during infection. The presence of antibodies to COVID-19 indicates that a person had been previously infected with the virus and developed an immune response.

- Antibody or serological testing is for people that **are not** currently sick
- In the future, such testing will likely help us learn about how COVID-19 spreads and how many people who contract the disease are asymptomatic. In fact, many studies using antibody testing are currently under way.

Important things to know if you pursue testing:

- Tests are not always accurate. Sometimes they may detect antibodies to a disease that is similar to COVID-19, rendering a false positive. Experts are working to develop more reliable tests but, if you receive an antibody test, it's important to talk to your physician about how accurate the test may or may not be.
- A positive test result **does not** mean you are immune to COVID-19. We are still learning how much protection antibodies provide, and how long they stay in our bodies. All of us should practice social distancing, wear masks, and follow hygiene recommendations, **regardless of the results of an antibody test.**