

## ***What is an antibody test?***

Antibody tests look for specific proteins, called antibodies, your body made in response to an infection. Antibodies can be found in the blood of people who are tested after infection, and indicate an immune response to the infection. However, we do not know if the antibodies that result from SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 infection, will provide immunity from a future infection or the duration that protection would last. Scientists around the world are conducting studies to better understand the level of antibodies needed for protection, the duration of that protection, and the factors associated with whether a person develops a protective antibody response.

## ***How accurate are tests?***

Results from antibody testing should not be used as the sole basis to diagnose or exclude COVID-19 infection, or to inform infection status.

### Positive results

- A positive antibody test result indicates an individual *likely* had a COVID-19 infection.
- If you have been previously diagnosed with or exposed to other types of coronaviruses, there is a possibility of a false positive.
- A positive test may be due to past or present infection with non-SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus strains, such as coronavirus HKU1, NL63, OC43, or 229E.
- There is also a possibility of a false positive if it's unlikely you had COVID-19 based on your exposure history or symptoms.

### Negative results

- A negative antibody test result indicates an individual *likely* never had (or has not yet developed antibodies to) a COVID-19 infection.
- Negative test results do not rule out COVID-19 infection, particularly in those who have been in contact with the virus.
- Molecular diagnostic should be considered to rule out infection in negative individuals who have been in contact with the virus. Ask your healthcare provider about this test.

## ***Do I need to be concerned about exposure?***

Due to the lack of evidence to support protective immunity, if you are exposed, monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 and follow-up with your healthcare provider. Be sure to continue to follow federal, state, and local government guidance regarding social distancing and isolation.

## ***What about frontline workers?***

If you are a healthcare professional, first responder, or other frontline worker, talk to your employer for specific occupational health guidance. Continue to use masks and other PPE as appropriate. You should adhere to the recommendations set forth by your employer or the department of health. Be sure to continue to follow federal, state, and local government guidance regarding social distancing and isolation.