**COVID-19 Antibody Testing**

Also known as COVID-19 Serological Testing

**When is antibody testing performed?**

This testing is done weeks AFTER you have potential or confirmed COVID-19 symptoms. Testing is done for:

1. Patients who were tested and diagnosed with COVID-19
2. Patients who had symptoms that could have been due to COVID-19 and were never tested
3. Patients who were exposed to COVID-19 more than 10 days ago

**Is antibody testing used if I am currently experiencing symptoms?**

No. This test is not used to diagnose acute infections.

**What are the possible results I may receive from antibody testing?**

You may receive a positive or negative result from this test.

Positive result:

If your test result comes back positive, it means you had a previous COVID-19 infection. Although we are not testing patients who are currently symptomatic, it could also indicate a current COVID-19 infection.

Negative result:

If your test result comes back negative, it means you likely have not had a COVID-19 infection. Depending on when your test was performed, it could also be too early to show antibodies. In certain cases, such as those patients who are immunocompromised, a negative test result may be due to a delayed antibody response or there may not be detectable levels of antibodies. You could also be infected but too early to show antibodies.

**Does a positive antibody test result mean I am immune to COVID-19?**

At this point, it is not known if a positive test result means you are immune to COVID-19. Even if means you are immune, it is not known how long that immunity may last. A positive test does not mean you are safe to continue your daily activities without precautions.

**Do I still need to practice social distancing and other precautions?**

Yes, even with a positive test result, you should still continue social distancing, practicing good hand hygiene, and wearing a mask when social distancing is not possible.

**Is it possible that my blood test is wrong?**

Yes, there is always a risk of a false positive or false negative test result. If you have questions, you can discuss this with your doctor.

**What type of sample is needed?**

A blood sample

**How long does it take to get my results?**

Usually within 1 day although it may take longer depending on how many tests are run.

**Will this test be covered by my insurance?**

Each insurance plan may offer different coverage. If you have questions or concerns, please check with your individual insurance plan.

**My test came back positive and I am interested in donating my plasma. Where can I find more information?**

If you are interested in being a potential plasma donor, please visit the following website: <https://newsroom.uw.edu/news/plasma-donors-sought-among-those-recovered-covid-19>