

What is an Antibody Test?

Antibody tests check your blood for the presence antibodies, which show if you had a previous infection with the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) virus. Antibodies are proteins that help fight off infections. Detection of antibodies provides insight into an individual’s immune response and may indicate exposure to the virus. Depending on when someone was infected and the timing of the test, the test may not find antibodies in someone with a current COVID-19 infection. **Antibody tests are not intended for active infection and should not be used to diagnose someone as being currently sick with COVID-19.** To see if you have a current infection, you need a viral test, which checks respiratory samples, such as a swab from inside your nose.

When should I get an antibody test?

It can take 1-3 weeks after infection to make antibodies; therefore, testing is recommended at least 10 days after potential exposure or onset of symptoms to allow for the development of antibodies.

How to get an antibody test?

Antibody tests are available through healthcare providers and laboratories. For information on antibody testing, contact your healthcare provider or visit Sonora Quest Laboratories at

<https://www.sonoraquest.com/sonora-quest-laboratories-now-offers-covid-19-antibody-testing/>.

Information regarding the University of Arizona Antibody Testing Initiative for health care workers and first responders across the state is available at www.covid19antibodytesting.arizona.edu.

Antibody test results:

| Antibody Test Results | Interpretation | Recommended Action |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Positive | You likely* have HAD a COVID-19 infection. | You may be protected from re-infection (have immunity), but this cannot be said with certainty. Scientists are conducting studies now to provide more information. Continue to take steps to protect yourself and others. |
| Negative | You likely* NEVER HAD (or have not yet developed antibodies to) COVID-19 infection | You could still get COVID-19. Take steps to protect yourself and others. |

**No test is ever perfect. All tests occasionally result in false positive results (the test result should be negative because you DO NOT have COVID-19 but comes back positive) or false negative results (the test result should be positive because you DO have COVID-19 but comes back negative). Sometimes the results are not definitive (the result is unclear, and you don’t know if it is positive or negative). For this and other reasons, results should always be reviewed by a healthcare professional.*

How accurate are antibody tests?

The Centers for Disease Control is currently evaluating the performance of commercially manufactured antibody tests in collaboration with other government agencies. There are more than a dozen antibody tests, with varying accuracy, being evaluated. FDA has authorized emergency use of several antibody tests.

[Insight into FDA’s Revised Policy on Antibody Tests: Prioritizing Access and Accuracy.](#)