

COVID-19 Antibody Test

Read below to find out more information about this test.



What does the result tell me?

This test is designed to give information about whether you might already have had COVID. It does **not** help you know whether you have COVID **right now**. A rapid or PCR antigen test is used to detect active infection.



What is the test looking for?

During and after infection, the body produces two types of antibodies: Immunoglobulin M (IgM), produced first, that helps fight the infection, and immunoglobulin G (IgG), produced later, that “remembers” what that virus or bacterium looks like and destroys it if it ever enters the body again, even years later. **This antibody test looks for both IgM and IgG.**



What does a positive result mean?

This test has a nearly **100% specificity!** This means that, if the test says ‘positive’, you can be sure that you actually did have COVID at some point, even if you did not know it. You definitely have COVID antibodies (though we cannot know how many or if they are still effective).



What are the limitations?

The limitations of this test is its sensitivity. It appears to be about 90%, which means that there is a 10% chance you could actually have had COVID in the past, but the test would miss the antibodies. You would therefore assume you’ve never had COVID.



When should I get the test?

This test will not be reliable until at least **2 weeks after a person contracts COVID**, maybe longer. It cannot be used as a diagnostic test for actual infection but rather, only to detect past infection. If you have been vaccinated, you will test positive for antibodies.



Can I "return to normal" after being tested?

Finally, the test results, whether positive or negative, **should not change ANYTHING you do in your daily life**. For now, you’ll still have to **wear a mask, socially distance, and get vaccinated when it is your chance to**. The purpose of this test is to satisfy personal curiosity about whether that nasty cold you had last year was in fact, COVID.

We all struggle, choose kindness always.