

What is an antibody test?

Antibodies are substances that your body produces in response to viruses and other infection in your blood.

Antibodies are one of the ways your body can fight a disease. This test is used to detect antibodies that your body may have produced against the coronavirus. This test is different to the Covid19 swab test. The swab test checks fluid from your nose and throat to see if you currently have the virus.

Antibody results

A positive test indicates that you have developed antibodies due to the virus. This means at some point you have had the virus even if you have had no symptoms.

Your immune system fights infections. Your immune system may have responded to the virus even if you have not felt ill or did not know you have Covid19.

Having this information lets us know how many of the population have already had the virus.

However, this test is not always guaranteed to identify everyone as some people who have had the virus may still test negative.

It is important to stay alert even if you have tested positive for antibodies. Covid19 is a new virus and we are still learning how the immune system reacts to it. Studies are ongoing so we can understand the virus better.

How will the results be used?

Your results will only be shared with you. It is your responsibility to inform your employer of your test results. You may decide to discuss the test with your employer first.

The results will be used to identify the amount of Covid19 across the country. This will help understand how the virus spreads.

Are there any risks to having the test?

The test is just like any other routine blood test. The procedure is safe but there are risks to have any kind of blood test. You may experience dizziness, fainting or bruising were the needle has entered your skin. Serious complications include infection but this is very unlikely. There are no specific risks to the antibody tests.

Before having the test you may wish to look into the implications of a positive result on mortgage / insurance applications. We are unable to offer advice on this; instead you will need to discuss this with your provider.

If you have any questions regarding the process or the results please contact your GP Surgery.

Test results

Your test result should be available from your GP practice within 48 – 72 hours.

This will either be negative or positive.

Please check your test result by logging on to the NHS App or using Patient Access online.

Your GP will usually contact you if you have a positive result

Consent

Once you have read this information and if you are happy to proceed with the test you will be asked to sign a consent form when you arrive for your appointment.

You can withdraw your consent up until the blood is taken.

If you decide that you no longer want to proceed with the test please contact reception so your appointment can be cancelled.

If you decide on the day please let the Health Care Assistant know before they take your blood.