What You Need to Know About the Results of Your COVID-19 Antibody Blood Test

Thank you for agreeing to take an antibody blood test for the COVID-19 virus. These tests may make it possible for scientists to discover ways to manage the spread of the virus.

This is a sensitive test for antibodies in your blood that fight the COVID-19 virus. The test was developed by laboratory experts. It is important for you to understand, though, that it is a new test and a new virus, so we are still learning more about what the results mean.
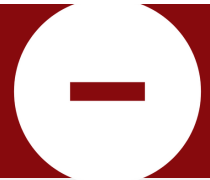
If you had a positive result on a COVID-19 blood antibody test:

A positive antibody test means that you have developed an immune response to the COVID-19 virus.

- **We aren't certain yet how much this immune response protects you from future infections.**
- **We also don't know if you could still spread the infection to others, even if you have antibodies.**

What to do next:

- **Follow-up with your doctor.** Your doctor may want to get a swab sample from you to do molecular testing (called PCR). This test may help show if you have a current COVID-19 infection or a previous one that is no longer active.

- **Continue to protect yourself and others against COVID-19 infections.** That means handwashing, social distancing and staying home when you are sick. It also means wearing a mask in public or when caring for others who are sick.

If you had a negative result on a COVID-19 blood antibody test:

A negative antibody test means that you have not developed an immune response to COVID-19.

However, it does not necessarily mean that you don't or didn't have a COVID-19 infection.

- **It usually takes 1 to 2 weeks to develop antibodies after the start of illness. Sometimes it can take weeks or even longer.**
- **Some people may never develop antibodies even if they had an infection.**

What to do next:

- **If you are not feeling well, please follow up with your doctors.** They may want to get a swab sample for molecular testing (called PCR).

- **It is still important for you to continue to protect yourself and others against COVID-19 infections.** That means handwashing, social distancing and staying home when you are sick. It also means wearing a mask in public or when caring for others who are sick.

If you have had a COVID-19 infection and want to donate blood plasma:

You may be able to donate blood plasma that could help others. If so, you will first need to be screened.

- If you have recovered from a COVID-19 infection, your plasma (the colorless part of your blood) may have substances that help others fight the infection.

- If you are interested in donating your plasma at the **Stanford Blood Center:**
    - Go to the blood center's website:
      https://stanfordbloodcenter.org/convalescent-plasma-from-recovered-covid-19-patients/
    - Complete a short survey to see if you are eligible.

FDA disclaimer:

This test has been validated and developed by Stanford Clinical Lab. The FDA has been notified.

- This test has not been reviewed or approved by the FDA.
- Negative results do not rule out SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) infection.
- Follow-up testing with a molecular diagnostic test should be considered to rule out infection.
- This antibody test result should not be used as the sole basis to diagnose or exclude SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) infection or to inform infection status.
- Positive results may be due to past or present infection with non-SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) coronavirus strains, such as coronavirus HKU1, NL63, OC43, or 229E

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