COVID-19 Antibody Testing

Guide for Patients
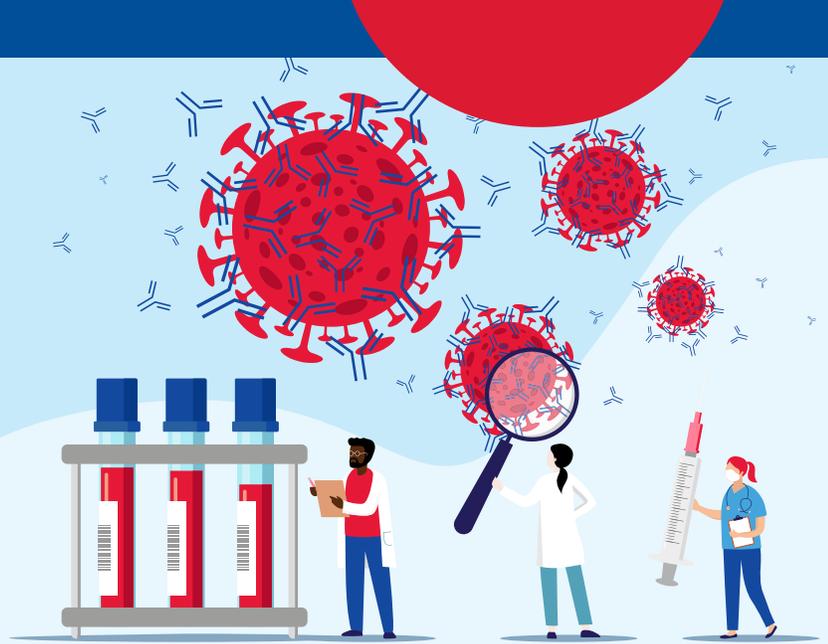
WHAT IS THE COVID-19 ANTIBODY TEST?

The COVID-19 antibody test offered by LifeLabs is a blood test that can be used to assess if you were previously exposed to the virus that causes the COVID-19 infection, even if you did not have symptoms! The antibody test is not a diagnosis of active infection, but rather detects whether you have antibodies reactive to SARS-CoV-2 viral proteins, suggesting that you have previously been infected.

WHO IS ANTIBODY TESTING FOR?

Getting a COVID-19 Antibody Test is useful for everyone, as a tool to help make better decisions about health, for **travel clearance**[1] and to alert friends and family of a previous exposure. Antibody testing is particularly right for people who:

- Have previously been exposed to or infected with COVID-19, even if they were asymptomatic;

- People who have signs or symptoms of COVID-19, but have repeatedly tested negative for COVID-19, and;

- People who display long-term symptoms of COVID-19 but who have never been diagnosed by a molecular test.

In order to determine whether COVID-19 antibody testing is right for you, it's important to note:

- The COVID-19 antibody test is not to be used for diagnosis of an active COVID-19 infection. If you suspect you may actively have COVID-19, speak to your healthcare provider about getting the molecular PCR swab test instead, which will determine an active infection.

- The result of COVID-19 antibody test cannot tell you whether or not you have a protective immunity against the virus, meaning whether your chances are lowered of having it again.

- The result of COVID-19 antibody tests cannot tell you whether or not you are currently infectious to those around you.

HOW CAN I GET ANTIBODY TESTING?

If you require the COVID-19 antibodies test for the purpose of flight clearance, use the LifeLabs FlyClear program by visiting LifeLabs.com/FlyClear to learn more and purchase the service. You can then book an appointment at a participating LifeLabs location near you to get your blood sample collected.

Your results will be sent to the email you provided when ordering. Please note that in order to receive a COVID-19 antibody test through FlyClear you must not be exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19.

For testing purposes other than flight clearance, speak to your healthcare provider and have them provide you a signed test requisition form. You may choose to pay for this test in advance on LifeLabs.com or pay in-person at a LifeLabs location when you get your blood sample collected.

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WHAT DO MY RESULTS MEAN?

Your results may be reported as **'Reactive'** (i.e. positive for antibodies) or **'Non-reactive'** (i.e. negative for antibodies). Here's what this means:

A 'Reactive' (positive) result means your sample has antibodies that are reactive to the SARS-CoV-2 virus. This typically indicates that:

- You very likely have had a prior COVID-19 infection in your recent past

- The positive result does NOT infer immunity or protection from re-infection

A **Non-reactive (negative)** COVID-19 antibody test result means that antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 were not detected in your blood sample. This could mean that:

- You have not been infected with SARS-CoV-2, or

- You have been infected with SARS-CoV-2 in the past, but your antibody levels were too low for the test to detect, or

- You have been infected with SARS-CoV-2, but there has not been enough time for antibodies to develop. Antibody response varies from person-to-person and can take up to 3-4 weeks after you've first experienced symptoms or after you've first been exposed to be reliably detectable by antibody tests.

The following limitations of COVID-19 antibody testing should be considered:

- In rare cases, falsely positive results may be caused by cross-reactivity of the test with other viruses

- Some studies indicate that a small percentage of people infected with SARS-CoV-2 do not have detectable antibodies (< 4%)

- Positive antibody (serology) test results do not infer immunity and protection from re-infection

- Serology results should not be used to exclude active infection

- Antibody testing performed < 3 weeks after onset of symptoms has reduced clinical sensitivity and may lead to false negative results

- Antibody testing is most accurate when tested 3-4 weeks after you've been exposed to the virus, although recent studies indicate that antibodies may be found up to 4 months post-exposure

- Immunosuppressed individuals or those with mild disease may not produce measurable antibody levels

1. LifeLabs COVID-19 antibody blood test is acceptable for the requirements to travel to China and other countries that specifically require this test for flight clearance. Customers are responsible for knowing and meeting all other conditions of travel to their destination. Although the current test meets the requirements for travel to various countries, those requirements may change. The customer accepts the risk of this change. LifeLabs will not be liable to the customer for such a change.

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