

What is a PCR Test?

Polymerase Chain Reaction Test (PCR), looks for the presence of the virus in a swab taken from the nose. This test is considered to be highly accurate



What is an Antibody test?

Your blood is analyzed for antibodies against COVID-19 (looking for your body's response to the virus).

What do my test results mean?

A positive or negative result on a PCR test can be interpreted as a **true result**, while a blood test is not so straightforward.

Positive on PCR test: means you've been recently infected, while Negative on PCR test, means no infection at time of testing.

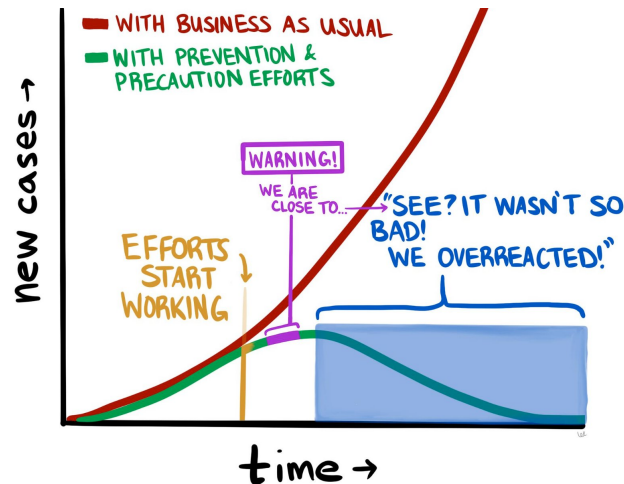
Positive on Antibody (IgG) test: either past SARS-CoV-2 infection or past exposure to a related coronavirus. If you have symptoms, you will need PCR to confirm infection.

Negative on Antibody (IgG) test: either no previous infection, or recent infection in past 1-3 weeks (false negative, your body has not had time to form enough antibodies for the test to turn positive).

I tested positive for COVID-19 antibodies. Can I relax social distancing and go out without a mask now?

No! Testing positive for COVID-19 antibodies means that you may have been exposed to COVID-19, but we don't yet know whether it is possible to be reinfected with SARS-CoV-2. It is also uncertain at this time how much protection having antibodies gives you. Additionally, there can be false positive results with antibody tests. A false positive result means that your test showed a positive antibody against SARS-CoV-2 when in fact you do not have any antibodies. In that case, you would still be vulnerable to infection.

Therefore, **continue to wear a mask in public and practice social distancing measures.**



We're close to the "We Overreacted!" phase...DON'T GIVE UP ON MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING!

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Testing, Results and What They Mean.

Stop the Spread, for *Safer Breathing*



What is the difference between COVID-19, coronavirus, and SARS-CoV-2?

A virus enters your cells and hijacks their machinery to make copies of themselves. There is a family of viruses called coronaviruses which cause seasonal colds during the winter, and novel (new) strains have been responsible for previous epidemics such as SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) in 2002 and MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) in 2012.

SARS-CoV-2 is the name of the new coronavirus discovered in 2019 that causes COVID-19 disease. The symptoms of COVID-19 disease range from no symptoms (asymptomatic) to severe life-threatening pneumonia (infection of the lungs) with possible complications including stroke, kidney failure, heart problems, and blood clots. The virus spreads through droplets released into the air when a person coughs, sneezes, or speaks. The virus has also been found in stool (feces). Research is ongoing into whether the virus can be transmitted through other bodily fluids.

How does my body fight against COVID-19?

After exposure to an invading microbe like a virus, your immune system naturally forms antibodies which can help fight future infections from the same microbes. Antibodies are proteins that are directed against a specific part of a microbe; if you become infected with the same microbe in the future, your body is prepared with antibodies that block infection in various ways.

More about antibodies, and why they're important

There are different names for the antibodies we produce in response to a virus or bacteria. Another name for antibodies is immunoglobulin. Immunoglobulin M (IgM), is the first to be produced in an infection. After the early phase of infection, your body's immune cells produce other types of antibodies called IgG and others. IgG circulates in the blood and tissues, and recognizes invading microbes to be targeted by the immune system. Part of the discussion in the scientific community and the news media is about types of antibodies that are formed against SARS-CoV-2. When your body forms antibodies against a part of the virus, some of the antibodies are **neutralizing antibodies**, which can make the virus ineffective. **Non-neutralizing antibodies** may also be produced; they work by indirectly marking a viral particle as foreign so your immune system can inactivate or kill the virus, and also to keep it from reproducing.

