COVID-19 antibody tests

Serology or antibody tests may be able to tell if you have been infected with the virus that causes COVID-19.

Your body makes antibodies when it fights an infection. Antibodies in your blood mean at one time you were exposed to COVID-19. Antibody tests find these antibodies in your blood and tell you if your immune system has responded to the infection.

Antibody tests may show if you have been previously infected.

A blood sample is used to find:

- IgM Antibodies: Develop early in an infection.
- IgG Antibodies: Develop later or after you’ve recovered.

An antibody test is different from the test in which a healthcare worker uses a nasal swab to collect a sample from your throat, behind your nose. This test is called a PCR test. A PCR test tells you if you are sick with COVID-19 right now.

Where can I get an antibody test?

Right now, you will need to ask your healthcare provider to order an antibody test. There may be a cost to you and your health insurance for this test. Ask your health insurance provider what the cost will be.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>What does a positive antibody test result mean?</th>
<th>What does a negative antibody test result mean?</th>
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| 1. If an antibody test is positive and shows antibodies are in your blood, you were likely infected with COVID-19.  
2. This does not guarantee you have immunity to the virus.  
3. It is important to still practice social distancing. | 1. If an antibody test is negative and shows no antibodies in your blood, you were likely not infected with COVID-19.  
2. You may have been tested early in your infection, or your body has not made enough antibodies to be detected.  
3. It is important to still practice social distancing. |

If you get sick with symptoms of COVID-19 (like a fever, cough, shortness of breath, muscle aches, sore throat, or a decrease in your sense of smell or taste), you may need to be tested for COVID-19 with a PCR test. A PCR test is done by a healthcare worker who uses a nasal swab. Call a healthcare provider or visit www.coronavirus.utah.gov/testing-locations/.