

# COVID-19

## Information for Patients: Antibody Testing

Antibody testing plays a critical role in the fight against COVID-19 by assessing the antibody response in individuals and populations. Testing identifies patients who have been successfully vaccinated or have been previously exposed to COVID-19 in the past.

### WHAT ARE ANTIBODY TESTS?

Antibodies are proteins produced during the body's immune response to infection. If you have detectable antibody levels, you have either been successfully vaccinated or have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus in the past. Most people will have detectable antibody levels by 14 days after vaccination or onset of symptoms and levels are presumed to remain elevated for some time. At this time, it is not known how long antibodies will persist following vaccination or infection.

### WHY IS COVID-19 ANTIBODY TESTING IMPORTANT?

Antibody tests inform you on whether you have been successfully vaccinated, or were exposed to the COVID-19 virus, especially since a large number of asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic COVID-19 patients may not be diagnosed with molecular (swab-based) testing. Antibody tests can help healthcare providers assess individual and population exposure to the virus, as well as measuring a person's vaccine-induced immune response. This is especially important as decisions continue to be made about how society moves forward amid the pandemic.

### WHAT TEST TECHNOLOGY IS USED?

BioReference utilizes Roche Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S immunoassay technology. The new test targets antibodies that are directed against the region of the novel coronavirus known as the spike protein.

### HOW IS A SAMPLE COLLECTED?

Antibody testing is completed with a blood specimen. Blood specimen collection for antibody testing is available at all BioReference Patient Service Centers. Please remember that a patient cannot order their own tests, and a healthcare provider's requisition or laboratory script is required for testing.

### WHAT DO MY RESULTS MEAN?

Results are provided as Detected (Positive) or Not Detected (Negative), and also provided as a numerical value ranging from 0.80 to 2,500 U/mL. Testing positive for COVID-19 antibodies means you have been successfully vaccinated or were likely exposed to the COVID-19 virus in the past. It is still unclear if having antibodies to COVID-19 means that you are immune to re-infection. Studies looking specifically at COVID-19 antibodies are ongoing, and will provide more data on how immunity works for this virus.

If you suspect that you have COVID-19 and are seeking evaluation of the disease, please contact your healthcare provider and local or state health department immediately.

## RESOURCES

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

World Health Organization (WHO)

[www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novelcoronavirus-](http://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novelcoronavirus-)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT**

**[www.bioreference.com/coronavirus/](http://www.bioreference.com/coronavirus/)**

**OR CALL 888-729-0967**