

Information on Antibody testing

Everyone who is having a test must complete a signed consent form and take this with them to the antibody testing centre. Depending on where you have your test, there is a requirement to either complete and print off a lab form or complete a lab form via a link, prior to your test. More information is included in the Joining Instructions. Please note that antibody testing is an appointment only service and no walk-ins will be accepted. Appointments may be cancelled at short notice due to circumstances beyond the service provider's control.

Please also be aware that the time taken to produce antibodies detectable in this test can vary from one person to another; from around 14 days up to more than six weeks post infection.

A small number of people do not produce a detectable immune reaction even when they have had COVID confirmed by swab testing. Reasons for this include:

- i) Illnesses which affect the immune system, and
- ii) Having mild COVID-19 symptoms.

It is also important to remember that an antibody test will only reveal whether a person has already had the virus. There is no evidence yet that those who have had the virus develop long-lasting immunity which would prevent them from getting the virus again.

The following guidance can be provided when interpreting your results:

Positive: Anti-COVID antibodies have been found which demonstrates that you have previously been exposed to COVID. Please note that a positive result does not indicate immunity to COVID. Infection Prevention and Control Guidance **must be** followed regardless of the result of this test.

Negative: Anti-COVID antibodies have not been detected in your blood. Please note that a negative test result does not rule out the possibility of previous or current infection with COVID. Infection Prevention and Control Guidance **must be** followed regardless of the result of this test.

You will be able to choose to take the antibody test or not, but we would encourage all staff to get tested, as this will help support the wider understanding of how many people have had COVID-19. It will also help develop our learning about whether antibodies may have a protective effect in the future.