



Antibody Testing for COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

At this time, a positive antibody test does not mean that you have protection from the virus. You may still become sick from the virus or be infected again even with a positive test.

Antibody testing is mainly being used to find people who may be able to donate plasma to help those who are very sick with COVID-19.

It can take up to 7 days to get the test results back.

What a positive test may mean

There are many new antibody tests for COVID-19, but **we do not yet fully know what the results of these tests mean.** A positive test may mean you:

- Were infected with COVID-19
- Were infected with a different coronavirus
- Just happen to have an antibody that reacts to the test, called a false positive test. Your antibody is not related to you being exposed to coronavirus.

Positive antibody tests must be reported

We are required to report the names of people with positive antibody tests to local health departments. You will be contacted by the health department after your results are reported.

Negative antibody test results are not reported.

What a negative test may mean

Because we are still learning about this virus and these new tests, we do not fully know what the negative test results mean either.

If you test negative, you likely have not had a severe COVID-19 or other coronavirus infection. A mild infection from any coronavirus may not cause enough antibodies to form to show as a positive test. It also may take a couple of weeks or longer for your body to form antibodies if you did have a recent coronavirus infection.

No matter what your test result is, positive or negative, you need to protect yourself and others from the spread of this virus.



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Prevent the spread of COVID-19

To protect yourself and others from the spread of this virus, take these precautions:

Wash your hands well and often with soap and water.

- Wet your hands with clean water and apply soap.
- Rub the soap on your hands to get a bubbly lather.
- Scrub the lather over the backs and fronts of your hands and fingers, between your fingers, and under your nails for at least 20 seconds.
- Rinse with clean water and dry with a clean towel.



Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

Be sure to wash your hands:

- After blowing your nose, sneezing or coughing
- After using the bathroom
- Before eating or preparing food

You can apply lotion to your hands after washing.



Keep at least 6 feet away from other people. Limit contact with people who do not live with you.



Wear a face mask when you are around other people, especially if you are going into a store or other public places.

Avoid touching your face.

Stay home if you are sick.

Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces in your household at least every day.

This includes door knobs, tables, countertops, light switches, handles, keyboards, phones, remotes, touch screens, toilets, faucets and sinks.



Most household disinfectants should be effective, such as Lysol, Clorox or similar store brand products. Follow the instructions on the container.

If you are sick

If you are sick, stay home. Contact your doctor for more direction if you have any signs of illness such as:

- Cough
- Fever
- Chills
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Muscle or body aches
- Loss of smell or taste
- Nausea
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Pain
- Shortness of breath or trouble breathing

Antibody tests does not mean you have a “passport” or are immune or protected from getting COVID-19. You should still follow precautions from the CDC, state and local departments of health and your employer.

Talk to your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

For more health information, go to wexnermedical.osu.edu/patiented or contact the Library for Health Information at 614-293-3707 or health-info@osu.edu.