



FAQs

COVID-19 antibody testing



Frequently asked questions

What does the antibody test check for?

Our antibody testing detects if you have previously had COVID-19. It does not tell you whether you currently have COVID-19.

If I get a positive test result does it mean I am immune to COVID-19?

No. COVID-19 is a novel virus that has only been identifiable in the human population for approximately 8 months, it is still not known when the antibodies provide immunity to COVID-19.

How does the antibody test work?

The test identifies whether your immune system has developed antibodies in response to being exposed to the SARS-Cov-2 virus which causes COVID-19. Test results will either indicate that antibodies were present or not with a positive or negative result.

How accurate is the test?

We use the Roche IgG antibody test, which has a specificity >99.8% and a sensitivity of 100%, which means a positive result has correctly identified patients that have had the virus.

How long does it take to get the results?

Your results will be available within 72 hours. You will receive an email with instructions on how to set up your secure online personal portal where results can be accessed.

When can I get a test done?

Tests can be completed 14 days after you have first developed symptoms.

How long after my symptoms can I have the COVID-19 antibody test done?

The antibodies start to develop 14 days after the onset of the infection and levels continue to increase for 7 days. The best time to do the COVID-19 antibody test is anytime after 21 days from the start of the infection. Because the infection is still new we do not know how long the antibodies last for. We currently know that they can be present for at least four months.

If I test positive am I contagious?

This test is not used to ascertain whether you are currently infected with the virus. The NHS does provide **PCR testing** which will tell you if you currently have COVID-19.

If I have symptoms can I get tested?

This test will not tell you if you currently have COVID-19. The NHS does provide **PCR testing** which will tell you if you currently have COVID-19.

Can I do an at home test?

There is currently no test available for home use that is approved by Public Health England.



To find out more visit nuffieldhealth.com/workplace-covid-19-testing or contact your client director for more information.

To arrange testing email CovidTesting.enquiries@nuffieldhealth.com.

Disclaimer: Research and development of COVID-19 testing is ongoing. As such our approach may be updated as testing evolves. We will continue to observe the guidance from Public Health England and the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency on any new tests and kits that become available before making these available to the public.