

Antibody Testing for SARS-CoV-2 (coronavirus)

<p>What is antibody testing?</p>	<p>Antibody tests are used to detect antibodies to the COVID-19 virus to see if you have previously had the virus. The test works by taking a blood sample and testing for the presence of antibodies to see if you have developed an immune response to the virus. Different types of antibodies are produced in the course of an infection. This test will provide the total of antibodies produced in response to a COVID-19 infection.</p> <p>An Antibody test differ to virus swab (PCR) test, which tests to see if you currently have the virus.</p> <p>It is currently unknown how long SARS-CoV-2 antibodies remain detectable within an individual's blood. Therefore, the value of antibody tests is currently limited to answering the question of whether someone has had the virus or not, and providing data and a greater understanding on the spread of the virus.</p>
<p>How do I get tested?</p>	<p>Antibody testing requires a venous blood sample to be taken, as for a common blood test.</p> <p>Please organise testing with your GP Practice.</p>
<p>I have antibodies, what does this mean?</p>	<p>If total SARS-CoV-2 antibodies are detected in your blood sample, it means you are likely to have previously been infected with SARS-CoV-2.</p> <p>The presence of total SARS-CoV-2 antibodies DOES NOT mean that you are immune to COVID-19.</p> <p>We currently do not have enough evidence to suggest how long, if at all, any immunity would last with the presence of antibodies.</p> <p>This means that you may still be able to be infected by the virus and pass this on to other people.</p> <p>You must continue to follow Public Health advice including respecting others personal space, good respiratory hygiene and effective hand washing.</p> <p>The presence of antibodies DOES NOT rule out the need for any mandatory self-isolation order served when returning to the Bailiwick from travel elsewhere. You should also continue to take all</p>

	<p>the health protection precautions advised by the country you are traveling to.</p> <p>You can still be infected by the virus and pass this on to other people, it is therefore vital that if you develop any symptoms you call the coronavirus helpline on 01481 756938 or 01481 759969 as you may require a test for current SARS-CoV-2 infection. These tests are free of charge for those who have symptoms.</p>
I don't have antibodies, what does this mean?	<p>If SARS-CoV-2 antibodies are not detected in your blood sample, it means you are unlikely to have previously been infected with SARS-CoV-2. However, some people who have had COVID-19 will still be negative by this test. This may be because it is too soon after the infection, too long after infection, or because in some people antibody production to the virus does not occur to a detectable level.</p> <p>You can still be infected by the virus and pass this on to other people, it is therefore vital that if you develop any symptoms you call the coronavirus helpline on 01481 756938 or 01481 759969 as you may require a test for current SARS-CoV-2 infection. These tests are free of charge for those who have symptoms.</p>