

COVID-19 ANTI-BODY TESTING FAQ

What is COVID-19 antibody

testing? When you recover from a virus, cells in your immune system “remember” it to help the body the next time you are sick. Antibodies help fight off the infection when the virus enters your body, thus, in theory, making you immune.

An antibody test, measures the antibodies in your blood to help determine if you’ve ever been infected with COVID-19.

To test for antibodies, you have to give a blood sample, usually with a finger prick.

Does it detect the virus in a

person? No, an antibody test will not tell you if you currently have COVID-19. According to the FDA, “the test detects the body’s immune response to the infection caused by the virus rather than detecting the virus itself.”

How accurate are the tests?

Laboratory tests that detect antibodies to COVID-19 need further validation to determine their accuracy and reliability. Also, accuracy can vary test to test so you would need to review the specific manufacturer’s information to determine their accuracy rate.

WILL I BE IMMUNE TO COVID-19 IF I HAVE THE ANTIBODIES?

The current hypothesis by the CDC is that the virus will lead to some level of protective immunity for an unknown duration. Having antibodies for COVID-19 does not necessarily mean you are immune from re-infection down the road. It hasn’t been proven yet that once you develop antibodies, you develop protective immunity.

WHERE CAN I GET AN ANTIBODY TEST?

COVID-19 antibody tests aren’t widely available yet. Health experts recommend contacting your doctor to see if it’s necessary for you to be tested.

IF I HAVE THE ANTIBODIES CAN I STOP WEARING A MASK AND QUIT SOCIAL DISTANCING?

No. Regardless of antibody results, you should still adhere to the recommended social distancing and quarantine behaviors.