

COVID – 19 Antibody Testing Information



Your personal test results for the COVID-19 antibody test will be sent by SMS to the mobile number that you supplied at the time of booking your appointment. The testing that we undertake is for antibodies to the SARS-CoV-2 virus which causes the infection, COVID-19.

Antibodies develop in viral infections as part of the body's attempt to fight the virus. An antibody test can tell someone whether they have had the virus that causes COVID-19 in the past.

This leaflet will help you to understand your results. The comments below are only valid if you think you had infection more than 2 weeks ago.

A NEGATIVE RESULT

This means that you do not currently have antibodies to the SARS-CoV-2 virus. There are a number of reasons why this might be the case:

- You have not been infected by the virus
- You were infected by the virus but you have not developed sufficient antibodies to be picked up using this test
- You have taken the antibody test less than 2 weeks after symptoms and you have not had sufficient time to develop antibodies
- If you are immune-suppressed you may not develop a normal antibody response to the virus – you should discuss this result with your GP if in doubt

A POSITIVE RESULT

You have made antibodies to the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The presence of antibodies signals that the body has staged an immune response to the virus.

AN INDETERMINATE RESULT

This means that the result is neither a true negative nor a true positive antibody result. We recommend a repeat test in 2 weeks to see if there is any change in your antibody status.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If I test positive for antibodies, am I now immune to COVID-19?

The answer to this question is not yet known. SARS-CoV-2 is a new virus and it is unclear if the presence of antibodies creates immunity or indeed how long the antibodies will last. Please continue to follow government guidance and social distancing advice.

If I test positive, am I contagious?

Antibodies are usually detected over two weeks after your infection began. You are unlikely to be contagious after this point.

If I test positive, do I still have to maintain social distance and self-isolate?

You should still follow government guidelines and rules regarding the use of face coverings, social distance and self-isolation if required to do so.

I am sure that I had symptoms of COVID-19 but my result is negative, how that this be explained?

You may not have had the COVID-19 virus, it could have been another illness, or you were infected by the virus but you have not developed sufficient antibodies to be picked up using this test.

Which antibody test has been used?

The test that we use in our laboratory is the Fortress Diagnostics COVID-19 Antibody Test. It has been approved for use in our laboratory following rigorous checks. The London Clinic laboratory has been nationally accredited by United Kingdom Accreditation service (UKAS).

If I need to speak to someone about my result, who should I speak with?

We recommend speaking with your GP as they will understand your full medical history. We are not currently offering an interpretation service for your personal result.

When will I receive my results?

We will send all results via SMS only within 72 hours. We do not send results via email or offer a result interpreting service. If you haven't received your COVID-19 blood results within 72 hours please email us on Covid-19Antibodytesting@thelondonclinic.co.uk