



## SARS-CoV-2 IgG antibody Test FAQ

### **What Is SARS-CoV-2?**

SARS-CoV-2 is the official name of the virus that causes COVID-19 infection.

### **What is an antibody test?**

When you get an infection, the body produces antibodies to fight that infection. These antibodies can be very specific to a certain disease. The presence of an antibody (positive test) indicates you had a previous infection OR you had a previous vaccination that triggered those same antibodies. Some antibodies can give lifelong immunity (e.g. polio) and others wane over time leaving the person susceptible to recurrent infection (e.g. seasonal influenza).

### **What does this COVID-19 antibody test detect?**

This antibody test detects the presence or absence of a specific IgG antibody for COVID-19. The test will give you a positive or negative result, not a number or a range.

### **If my test is positive, am I immune from COVID-19 infection?**

A positive test indicates a person had a past COVID-19 infection and developed an antibody response. We do not yet know if this antibody response is protective from recurrent infection. We do not yet know how long this antibody response will last. Immunity from other seasonal coronaviruses lasts 1-2 years.

### **If I have a positive antibody test, am I safe to care for COVID-19 patients without PPE?**

No. At this time, a positive antibody test indicates the history of infection. We do not yet know if this gives you immunity. It should NOT be used to guide decisions about PPE or return to work.

### **Will this test determine if I have an active COVID-19 infection?**

No. Active COVID-19 infections should be diagnosed using molecular testing (PCR), which is a swab in your nose and/or throat. Antibody testing should only be used to determine past COVID-19 infection.



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### **If I had symptoms of COVID-19, how long should I wait to have an antibody test done?**

Most people will develop a positive test 14-21 days after onset of symptoms so the test should not be performed until at least 14 days after the onset of symptoms.

### **Will I need to isolate or stay home from work if I have a positive antibody test?**

A positive antibody test indicates past infection with an immune response. You do not need to stay home from work or self-quarantine unless you have symptoms of active COVID-19 infection such as fever, cough, shortness of breath.

### **What is the cost of an antibody test and will my insurance plan cover this test?**

The federal CARES Act provides coverage of COVID antibody testing at no cost for employees covered by government, employee-sponsored, or private insurance plans. Employees insured by Dean Health Plan or the SSM Employee Health Plan administered by WellFirst Health will have the test covered with no out of pocket costs. Employees covered by other insurance carriers should also be able to access this test at no cost, but should confirm with their insurance plan. For employees who do not have insurance coverage, the cost of the test is roughly \$50-70.

### **Who will notify me of my test result?**

Your test results will appear in SSM's MyChart portal. To sign up for MyChart, go to <https://mychart.ssmhc.com/mychart/Authentication/Login?> and click "Sign Up Now." If you already have a MyChart account, use that. As well, it appears in your medical record, a copy of which can be requested at any time. Go to <https://www.ssmhealth.com/resources/for-patients/get-my-medical-records> for more information.

### **Will my test result be shared or used for any purpose without my consent?**

In this public health emergency, any entity that performs COVID-19 testing is mandated to report a positive result to local and state agencies. This includes the swab test in your nose/throat, or the antibody testing explained here. Other than that, your result cannot be shared with any other person or company without your consent.