

IEP Healthy Urgent Care Frequently Asked Questions COVID-19 Antibody Test

What is the COVID-19 Antibody Test?

The COVID-19 antibody test identifies the presence of antibodies that indicate a person had an immune response to COVID-19. A positive result to this antibody test indicates that you may have had previous exposure to COVID-19 even if you had no symptoms. Over time your body develops antibodies to the virus, even if you were asymptomatic.

Is this a blood test or a swab?

This test requires a blood draw collection from the arm to detect COVID-19 IgG antibodies in the blood. Antibodies in the blood indicate a previous COVID-19 infection. Some people infected with COVID-19 will never exhibit symptoms but will have a detectable antibody response.

Does this test diagnose active COVID-19 infections?

This is an antibody test used to detect the presence of antibodies indicating an immune system response to a past COVID-19 infection, not to diagnose active infections. We are also offering the COVID-19 nasal swab diagnostic test if you believe you may have an active infection or if you are currently feeling sick.

How long will it take for results to be available?

Results will be available within 2-4 days.

Is this test FDA approved?

This is FDA allowed with an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). There are no tests that have been fully vetted by the FDA at this time due to the novelty of the coronavirus. FDA approval is a long process that can take years to get full approval.

How much does this cost?

The office visit and lab fee will be charged separately. Most insurances have agreed to cover costs related to COVID-19 testing. We recommend that you check with your insurance provider to verify any co-pays or deductibles you will be responsible for. If you do not have insurance, an in-office visit is \$95, a Telemedicine visit is \$50, and you will receive a bill for from the outside lab facility that performs the sample analysis- this can range from \$45-\$145.

I would like to have this test done, what do I do?

Make an Urgent Care or Telemedicine appointment online and complete the Registration and our providers will discuss the best testing option with you.

If I make a Telemedicine appointment will I still need to come to the Urgent Care to receive the test?

The test can be administered by IEP Healthy Urgent Care or at select Quest Diagnostics Laboratory locations <https://appointment.questdiagnostics.com/patient/appointment>. Our providers can help find the most convenient location for you.

What is the difference between IgM and IgG antibodies?

IgM are the initial antibodies produced, they can be detected 5-7 days after exposure and may be detectable for up to 1-2 months. IgG antibodies develop after 10-14 days of exposure/infection and can last months to years.

If my test shows I have IgG antibodies, can I get the coronavirus again?

The hope is that you have developed some immunity to the virus. It is not clear how long the IgG antibodies would stay present in your body or what level of immunity is created. More studies need to be done to establish that.

How accurate is the test?

The studies are not adequate at this time to give a definite sensitivity and specificity of the test. More studies still need to be done to establish this completely. Results from antibody testing should not be used as the sole basis to diagnose or exclude SARS-CoV-2 infection or to inform infection status.

Current testing through the Ortho Diagnostic platform report it is 100% specific to the Sars Cov 2 virus. Positive results by Quest lab may be due to past or present infection with non-SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus strains, such as coronavirus HKU1, NL63, OC43, or 229E.

Which test should I have?

The antibody test is a blood draw test looking for previous exposure and your development of antibodies against it. It is not appropriate for use when you are currently having symptoms. or to diagnose a current infection. We also offer the COVID-19 nasal swab diagnostic test if you believe you may have an active infection or if you are currently feeling sick.

What is the test?

SARS-CoV-2 Serology (COVID-19) Total Antibody (IgM, IgA, IgG) Immunoassay

What is the CPT code for the test?

86769

What is the brand of the test?

The test is processed by several Labs including Quest diagnostics and Orchard Lab; they are using the brands Abbot and EUROIMMUN and Ortho Diagnostics. Here is a great handout regarding the test. <https://dam.abbott.com/en-us/abbottcorpnews/pdf/20-351052-ADD-Serology-Antibody-Infographic-FINAL.pdf>

<https://www.orthoclinicaldiagnostics.com/en-us/home/ortho-launches-second-covid-19-antibody-test-with-100-percent-specificity>

Can I order this COVID-19 antibody test in bulk for my workforce?

IEP Healthy Urgent Care can arrange bulk COVID-19 antibody testing for a workforce. Please contact us for details.

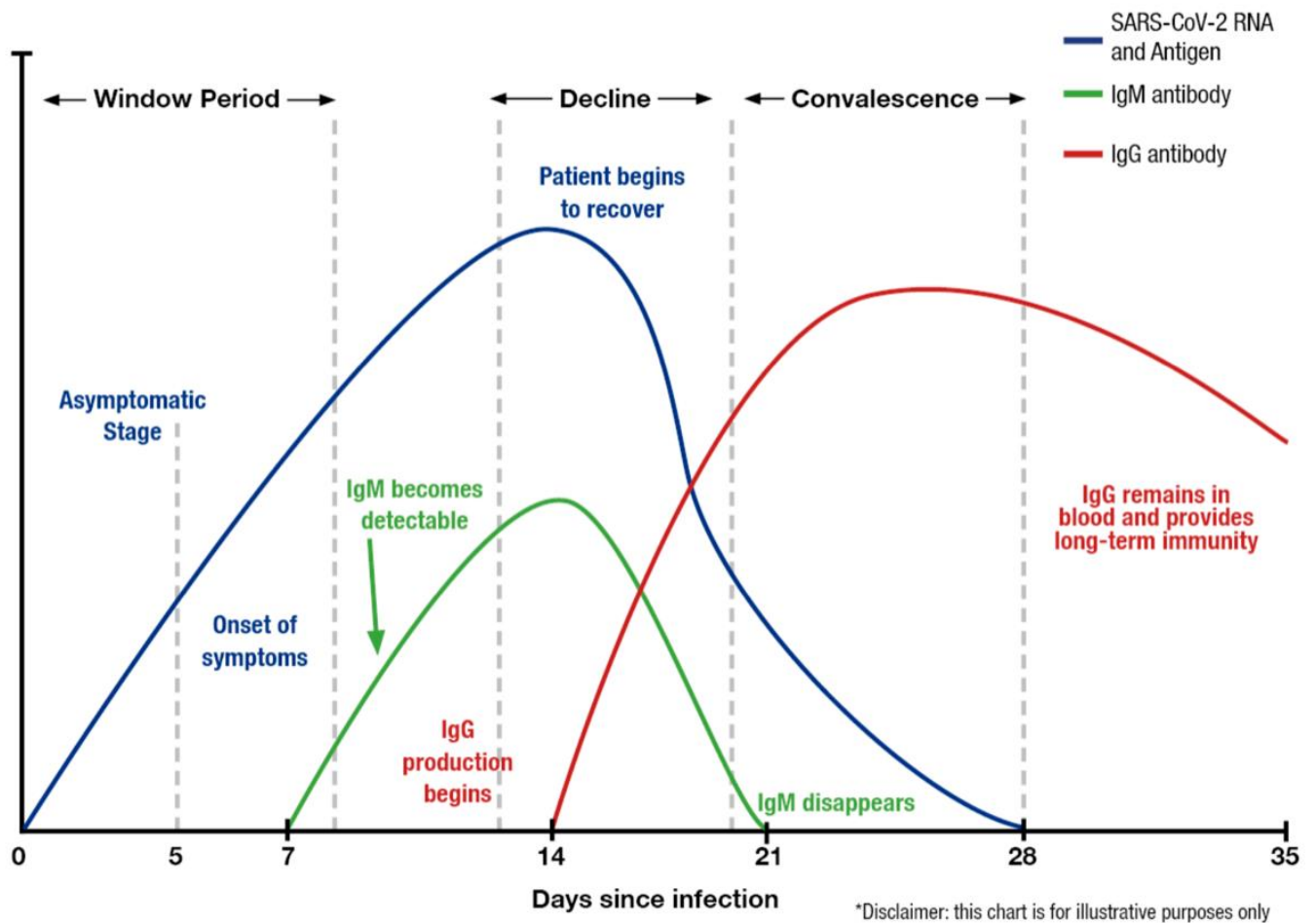


Figure 1: Variation of the Levels of SARS-CoV-2 RNA and Antigen, IgM and IgG after infection.