

## **Covid-19 antibody testing FAQs**

### **I'm having a blood test, can I have an antibody test?**

Yes. We are now able to request antibody testing. These tests are currently being used for public health and statistical purposes only. The result does not have any impact on way we manage patient's care and has no impact on the social distances measures a patient is required to take.

### **I'm not having a blood test, can I book one just for antibodies?**

No. These tests are currently being used for public health and statistical purposes only. The result does not have any impact on way we manage patient's care and has no impact on the social distancing measures a patient is required to take. We are able to add the test to a sample that is being taken for other clinical reasons. We do not currently have capacity to undertake blood sampling solely to check for coronavirus antibodies. Our reception team and phlebotomists can only add the coronavirus antibody test to a blood test request that has already been created by a GP. If you do not require a blood test for other reasons please do not contact the practice requesting antibody testing.

### **I'm three weeks post Covid starting, still have a cough but don't feel unwell – can I still have the test?**

Yes. It takes several weeks for antibodies to develop following exposure to any infection. Coronavirus is a new infection so scientists are still learning how it affects the immune system and how symptoms develop and resolve. It is likely that antibodies will develop even if symptoms are ongoing.

### **I'm housebound and the Community Care Team (District Nurses) are coming to take my blood sample– can they do the test at the same time?**

Yes. However, this test must be added prior to the nurse arriving to take the sample. You will need to contact the practice at least 24 hours prior to the planned blood sample time.

### **Can I have another test if my last test was negative?**

The antibody test is believed to be highly accurate. Repeat testing would only be useful if a further sample was taken at least 3 weeks after another episode of illness with symptoms consistent with Covid-19 infection. If a blood test sample has been requested by your GP or specialist for other purposes then a further antibody test could be added at that time.

### **How do I get my test result?**

You can either check your online medical records, or if you do not have online record access, you can call reception at least a week after the test.

### **Can I have a copy of my test result?**

Yes. Test results are part of your online medical record which can be viewed using the NHS App. If you do not have online access to your medical records, you can request this from us once you have signed up for the NHS App.