

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PATIENT QUESTIONS

What is the antibody test looking for?

We are testing your immune response (IgG levels) to the coronavirus.

After our body has been exposed to an infection, it builds up an immune response that may allow it to fight that infection if/when we are exposed again.

This response takes weeks to months to mount.

This immune response (IgG) may help protect us from getting sick again.

We are NOT testing for the virus itself in your bloodstream.

How accurate is this Ab test?

Our antibody test is very accurate, with a sensitivity of 94% and a specificity of > 99%.

If your personal physician had high suspicion that you had coronavirus but your test was negative, please have them repeat this antibody test when you see them.

Unfortunately, we do not have capacity to repeat negative antibody tests at this time.

**My antibody test was positive.
For how long am I safe from reinfection?**

Unfortunately, since this is an active area of research, we do not know how long the antibodies last.

Additionally, we cannot guarantee that having antibodies makes you immune to reinfection.

Please continue to take all the precautions recommended by public health officials in your area..

**My antibody test was positive.
Does this mean I cannot infect other people?**

No, unfortunately your antibody result only indicates that you are potentially at lower risk from becoming sick from coronavirus. It is possible that people with positive antibody results can still pass along the infection to other people.

Please continue to practice social distancing in order to protect the people around you.

**My antibody test was positive.
Does this mean the people with whom I live
are also safe from getting the virus?**

Unfortunately, even if you live with other people and have cleared your infection, we cannot say if those people also had the infection. The safest assumption is that everyone could still get sick, so we recommend continuing to follow CDC guidelines.

What does the "titer" level mean?

If you have a positive result, the titer level indicates the strength of your antibody response.

	<p>We do not know what implication these titer levels have for reinfection risk, at this time.</p> <p>If you had a negative antibody result, it is not possible to run a titer level, so you may see it was "CANCELLED." Your test is still accurate.</p>
<p>My antibody result is negative. Underneath this result it says "Titer CANCELLED." What does this mean?</p>	<p>If your antibody result is negative, it is not possible to run a titer level; that is why this says "CANCELLED." Your test result is still accurate.</p>
<p>The mychart result says that the lab was drawn from my left arm, but my blood draw was from my right arm. Are you sure this result is for the right person?</p>	<p>Yes, at the time of your blood draw, our staff took many precautions to assure that the results were collected for the right person, including checking your name and date of birth when checking you in for the visit, when completing your blood work, and when completing forms. The left arm was an automatic option when ordering this lab, but in no way affects your results.</p>
<p>My antibody test is positive. What are the next steps to donate plasma?</p>	<p>There is nothing further for you to at this time.</p> <p>The blood bank will receive your information and will contact you once space for donation opens up. If you have further questions, please visit nybloodcenter.org.</p>
<p>How long will it take for me to hear from the blood bank regarding donation?</p>	<p>If you are eligible to donate, the blood bank should contact you within 2 weeks of your results.</p>
<p>Since there is a delay for donation of plasma, will my blood need to be retested?</p>	<p>No, there is no need for retesting prior to donation.</p> <p>We are studying how long antibody titers last.</p>
<p>A family member also wants to donate. How do they get an appointment?</p>	<p>Please refer your family member to the REDCap survey, and a member of our research staff will reach out if/when they are eligible.</p>
<p>Does Mount Sinai share the information from these results with the city?</p>	<p>Yes, Mount Sinai is working in conjunction with the Department of Health and the FDA.</p>