

What is a Coronavirus Antibody Test and How Does it Work?

And what types of Coronavirus testing are there?

i Antibody Test vs. Typical Coronavirus Test:

The current Coronavirus test uses a nasopharyngeal swab that goes up the nose. It detects the presence of COVID-19. The test is for the virus itself to see if it's up in your nose. The antibody test detects the body's immune response to the infection rather than for the virus itself.

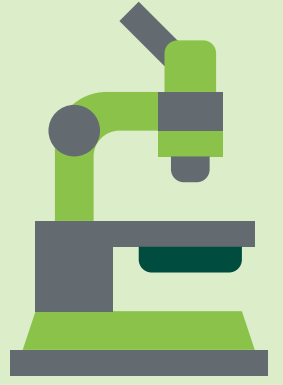


What are antibodies?

Antibodies are proteins that your body makes to fight against invading pathogens, like bacteria and viruses. When you get sick, your body creates an immune response. This is when antibodies are created. Your body builds up an army to be able to fight off those pathogens again.

Antibody Test

An antibody test, also known as a serological test, can potentially tell whether a person might have already had Coronavirus (COVID-19). Although it's not clear yet, people who have had the virus may be immune to the coronavirus for a certain period of time. That is why antibody testing is so important.



How would the test work?

This particular test uses blood from a finger prick or vein. It is then sent to a lab for antibody detection.

How will antibody testing impact society going forward?

An antibody test could be used to change social distancing guidelines. It could be a way for someone to return to work. Blood plasma from people who have recovered from COVID-19 is even being used to help treat others with the virus.



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