

What is an antibody test?

These blood tests, also called serologic tests, measure IgG and IgM antibodies, which your body produces in response to an infection with the novel coronavirus. “Antibodies are what allow us to have protection against reinfection from a virus,” says Jake Deutsch, MD, co-founder and clinical director of Cure Urgent Care in New York City.

How is the antibody test done?

It is a serum blood test, which involves drawing your blood. It is a Point of Care (POC) test which means the test is done and results are given to you on the spot.

What does an antibody test really tell you?

An antibody test could tell you if you had a COVID-19 infection or not. It could reveal if you were exposed to the novel coronavirus. (It does not diagnose you with the disease; you need a different type of test (PCR) for that.)

What to know about the serum test?

A serum test is best when you have been symptomatic within 14 – 20 days of testing. If you check for antibodies too early you may get a false negative result, as your body didn't have enough time to make a measurable level of antibodies.

At SEC, Further testing is available depending on the results of your antibody test that will help clarify where in the infection process you are personally.

I tested positive for the antibodies, does that mean I'm immune forever?

It is unknown how long antibodies will remain present in the body after infection. Antibody tests are new to the market, and with that comes risk of inaccuracies.

What you have to assume if you do get a test that even if you do have antibodies and the test was accurate, you are only immune for now. We advise you to get a vaccine when one is available.

If I have the antibodies does that mean I don't have to follow the state mandates?

No. Everyone, regardless of antibody status, should continue to follow rules and regulations regarding shelter in place, social distancing and face mask use.