

COVID-19 Antibody Testing FAQ Sheet

1. What is an antibody & what does it do?

Antibodies are immune cells produced by our bodies to help us fight off infection. Antibodies are made to that specific illness we are fighting off. When we are first infected, our immune system produces Immunoglobulin M (IgM). IgM is present in our blood during the infectious, acute stage of illness. IgM is, then, converted to Immunoglobulin G (IgG), which gives us long term immunity.

2. Are IgM & IgG both included in the test?

No. Unfortunately, the labs have only developed testing for IgG thus far. This means that you need to be exposed or infected at least 10 days prior to testing for a positive result. It is not a good idea to be tested while acutely ill.

3. How is the test performed?

The test is via blood draw from the vein, not a fingerstick. Only one vial of blood is needed to run the test. The sample is, then, sent to Quest or Labcorp (depending on your insurance). Anyone who has had previous known exposure or a febrile illness during the pandemic with no other diagnosis should be tested. We do not recommend having a young child with no exposure or illness be subjected to a blood draw.

4. What is the turnaround time for results & do I need to call the office for results?

Once the specimen reaches the lab, they are reporting anywhere from 2 to 7 days for results. We will call you within 24 hours of receiving the report.

5. If I have a positive result, does this mean I am completely immune to COVID?

This has not been determined yet. The virus is still new and studies have not been completed yet to determine the extent of immunity. A general rule of thumb is once IgG against a specific organism is produced, you have some immunity. This does not mean you will not get sick from that particular illness, but if you are exposed, your body has means to fight off the infection before it causes a more serious illness.

6. How accurate is the test?

The test has a 99% specificity, which means there are very few false positives.

7. What is the cost of the test?

Our office will charge a \$30 convenience/administrative fee. It is, then, up to your insurance to cover the lab's charge for running the test. Any uncovered charges from the lab will be your responsibility to pay to the lab.

8. What is the benefit of testing & knowing the results?

IgG testing provides insight into an individual's prior exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19 and the potential for protective immunity, which ultimately provides individuals and their healthcare providers the potential for a more informed decision in regards to returning to work, school, or other daily activities in our community.

I have read the above information and I agree to COVID antibody testing through Lake Vista Pediatrics and the authorized laboratory. I, hereby, authorize my insurance or other payment to Labcorp or Quest for services I receive. I am aware that the laboratory may be an out of network provider with my insurer. I am aware that I am responsible for any cost not covered by insurance or other payers

Signature

Date

Print Name

Please list below everyone being tested today.