

## Antibody Testing FAQs

*Note: Antibody testing will be offered at all mobile blood drives and donor centers for all donations made starting Sept. 27, while supplies last.*

### **What test are you using?**

The test was created by Abbott, an American health technology company. The test is designed to detect antibodies in a blood sample that would indicate that you may have current or prior COVID-19 infection.

### **Will this test tell me if my vaccine is working?**

This test does not measure immunity from a vaccine response. Instead, this test will only measure a natural COVID infection and the antibodies produced as a result.

### **How will I know my result?**

Test results will be available on the donor portal, in the same area as other standard testing like cholesterol and blood pressure.

### **Is this test FDA approved?**

This test has not been FDA cleared or approved. It has been authorized by the FDA (US Food and Drug Administration) under an EUA (Emergency Use Authorization) for use by authorized laboratories. The test has been authorized only for the detection of the IgG antibody against SARS-CoV-2, not for any other viruses or pathogens.

### **How reliable is the test?**

From [Abbott's website](#):

In medical and scientific language, the Abbott IgG antibody test has 99.63% specificity and 100% sensitivity at the time of detecting antibodies 14 days or greater, post symptom onset. This means that 14 days after the onset of symptoms, the test will identify an individual who has developed IgG antibodies to the COVID-19 virus (SARS-CoV-2) 100 % of the time. This is called the sensitivity of the test. This means that if you have developed IgG antibodies to the COVID-19 virus the Abbott test is able to detect them. The Abbott test also tells you that the antibodies the test detected are antibodies to the COVID-19 virus 99.63% of the time. This is called the specificity of the test. This means that if you receive an Abbott test for antibodies to the COVID-19 virus that detected antibodies, there is great certainty that these antibodies are to the COVID-19 virus and there is almost no possibility that the antibodies the test detected developed in response to another virus that you were previously exposed to.

### **How is this test performed?**

The test is performed using a vial of blood collected during the blood donation process. All testing is conducted in our internal laboratory using the Abbott test.

### **Who can receive this test?**

All donors can receive this test, although 16 and 17-year-old donors must have [parental permission](#).

### **If I receive a negative test result, what does that mean?**

A negative test result means that the IgG antibodies to the virus that causes COVID-19 were not found in your sample. However, it is possible for this test to give a negative result that is incorrect (false negative) in some people with COVID-19 infection. A negative result may occur if you are tested early in your illness and your body hasn't had time to produce antibodies to infection. If this is the case, your healthcare provider will consider the test result together with all other aspects of your medical history (such as symptoms, possible exposures, and geographical location of places you have recently traveled) in

deciding how to best care for you. It is important that you work with your healthcare provider to help you understand the next steps you should take.

**If I receive a positive test result, what does that mean?**

If you have a positive test result, it is likely that you have or previously had COVID-19 and that you have developed an antibody response to the virus. Your healthcare provider will work with you to determine how best to care for you based on the test results along with other factors of your medical history, including any previous symptoms, possible exposure to COVID-19, and the location of places you have recently traveled. There is also the chance that this test can give a positive result that is wrong (a false positive result).

**How does my test result affect my ability to donate blood in the future?**

It doesn't. Coronaviruses – like other respiratory illnesses – are not transmittable through blood donation and those who test positive for COVID-19 antibodies can still donate blood, as long as they are in good health and it has been at least 14 days since the last COVID-19 symptoms resolved.

**I just donated at a blood drive or center that didn't offer antibody testing. Can I have a test done now?**

Antibody testing is being offered to blood donors, so we encourage you to return for another donation when you become eligible again. Testing is being offered at all mobile drives and centers through December as supplies last, so donors who gave before testing was offered widely will have the opportunity to give in the coming weeks to receive their test. Donors can see their next date of eligibility by logging in to their account at [yourbloodinstitute.org](http://yourbloodinstitute.org).

**I'm giving blood, but I don't want my blood tested. Do I have to receive the test?**

No, donors can opt out of this testing. If you wish to do so, please tell our donor services staff.