

Information Sheet – COVID-19 Immunological Testing

Introduction

Testing for the respiratory coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) includes methods that detect the presence of virus and those that detect antibodies produced in response to infection.

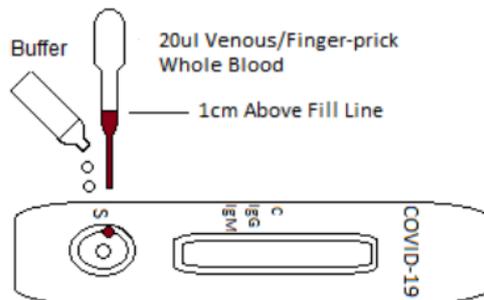
The test you will be taking is to detect the presence of the antibodies in your system and as such is looking for current or previous evidence of infection.

The test is positive from 3-7 days after infection with the virus (which is around the same the time that you would develop symptoms).

The test remains positive for a long time after infection.

Testing Procedure

- You will be asked for photo ID proof of identity
- A finger-prick of blood will be required for the test.



The COVID-19 Rapid Test is a qualitative lateral flow immunoassay for the simultaneous detection of IgM and IgG antibodies to Coronavirus in whole blood.

Results

The results of the test will be available within 15 minutes from when the test is taken. They will be either positive or negative for the presence of the virus.

You will be notified of the result immediately as will the Operator or your Employer.

Negative

As of the time of the test, you do not have evidence of current or previous infection with COVID-19. Please note that you may still be at risk of having or catching the infection and as such should continue to follow recommendations with respect to hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene. You should also continue to follow government recommendations with regard to social distancing / isolating.

A repeat test should be undertaken in 5 days. A positive result at that point means you have the infection. A negative result means that you do not have current or previous infection.

Positive

You have a current or previous infection with COVID-19.

Further Information for Covid-19 positive test

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough and shortness of breath. It is likely that these symptoms will develop 5-7 days after first contracting the virus.

Stay home except to get medical care

Separate yourself from other people and animals in your home

- People: As much as possible, you should stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available.
- Animals: You should restrict contact with pets and other animals while sick. When possible, have another member of your household care for your animals while you are sick.

Call ahead before visiting your doctor

If you have a medical appointment, call the surgery and tell them that you have COVID-19. It may be possible to undertake a telephone consultation.

Wear a facemask

You should wear a facemask, if possible, when you are around other people. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then people who live with you should not be in the same room with you, or they should wear a facemask if they enter your room.

Cover your coughs and sneezes

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw used tissues in a lined bin; immediately clean your hands as described below.

Clean your hands often

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water is preferred if hands are visibly dirty. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed

Avoid sharing personal household items

You should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people in your home. After using these items, they should be washed thoroughly with soap and water and dried before use by others.

Clean all “high-touch” surfaces every day

High touch surfaces include counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables. Also, clean any surfaces that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them. Use a household cleaning spray or wipe, according to the label instructions.

Monitor your symptoms

In most people the illness is relatively minor and short lived but seek prompt medical attention if your illness is worsening (e.g., difficulty breathing). Call NHS 111.

Discontinuing home isolation

For individuals with symptoms who are confirmed COVID-19 and are directed to care for themselves at home, discontinue home isolation under the following conditions:

- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); AND,
- At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Individuals with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have not had any symptoms may discontinue home isolation when at least 14 days have passed since the date of the positive COVID-19 test and have had no subsequent illness.

Travelling Home

Even in the absence of symptoms, as someone who is positive for COVID-19 you are at risk of spreading the virus so that travel arrangements should be planned around this.

Do not use public transport or travel in close proximity to others

Use a face mask if possible

Ensure that if you cough or sneeze you cover your nose and mouth and ideally cough/sneeze into a tissue which can be disposed of.