

Antibody testing FAQs

What is an antibody test?

- An antibody test can tell you whether you have had Coronavirus (COVID-19) and whether your body has responded and developed antibodies. The test works by drawing blood from the arm and testing to see if there are antibodies.

What do antibody test results mean?

- A positive antibody test means you have caught COVID-19 at some point in the past and that your body has responded and developed antibodies.
- A negative antibody test means your body has not responded to the virus and you have not developed antibodies. This does not mean you have not had COVID-19, just that your body hasn't staged an immune response.
- There is no evidence yet to suggest that people who have had the virus, and have received a positive antibody test result, are immune. This means you could still pass the virus onto others; so you will need to keep using personal protective equipment, such as a mask, social distancing and following government guidelines.

If you test positive for antibodies, can you ignore government guidance?

- No. There is no strong evidence yet to suggest that people who have had the virus, and have received a positive antibody test result, are immune.
- This means you could still pass the virus onto others; so, you will need to continue social distancing, infection control plans and following government guidelines.

How will I be told of the result?

- The individual who has had the test will be informed directly by SWL via test/email

How will my information be used?

- *Positive results will be shared with Public Health England* to help understand how the virus spreads and where it has been present in different regions of the country.

Are there any risks to having the test?

- There are some risks related to having a blood test, such as bruising, feeling dizzy and faint during and after the test.
- Swelling of the vein can happen but it is extremely unlikely.