

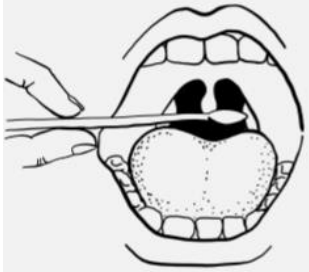
# Antibody Testing for Adult Social Care



# Difference between PCR & Antibody testing

## PCR testing:

Swab sample from throat and nose



### Can you get tested?

Anyone experiencing symptoms can ask for a test through the NHS website, and priority testing is available to essential workers.

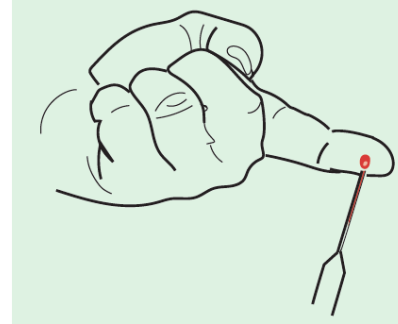
### What does it mean?

Indicates if a person:

- needs to continue to self-isolate
- can return to work
- needs to be re-tested

## Antibody testing:

'Finger-prick' test taken at home



### Can you get tested?

This test is offered free of charge to anyone in paid adult social care employment\*.



### What does it mean?

- Scientists and the Government gain a better understanding of the spread of the virus
- Can tell someone whether they have had the virus or not, but not about any level of protection or immunity from getting the virus again. **Social distancing measures must still be followed**

[Link](#)





# Antibody tests – key facts

## What does the test result mean?

-  A **positive result** means that **antibodies have been detected** and therefore it is likely that you have **caught Coronavirus at some point** in the past.
- A **negative result** means that the test **did not detect antibodies** in your blood.
-  This may mean that you have either a) **not had Coronavirus** in the past, b) that you have had the virus but **not developed antibodies** or c) that you have had the virus but the level of antibodies in your blood is **too low for the test to detect**.



## What happens with the results

-  **Your result will be shared with you** via text message and e-mail, usually within 3-7 days of your blood sample being received by the lab. *(Please note it may take up to 14 working days for you to receive your result)*
-  Results will also be shared with **Public Health England** to monitor prevalence of the virus and **inform policy** on infection control. Taking the test will help to build a better **national understanding** about how the virus spreads and where it has been present in different regions of the country.
-  Our **knowledge** of the virus will **grow** as new scientific evidence emerges, and so knowing your result now may be helpful in the future *if conclusive findings about immunity are released*.
-  However it is important to note that at the moment, there is **no evidence** to show that you **can't be re-infected** with the virus, pass it on to others, or have protective immunity. **This means you will still need to follow government guidelines, wear PPE and commit to regular PCR testing etc even if you have a positive antibody result.**



# Register your interest for an at-home antibody test kit



**Step 1:** Individuals employed in adult social care should register for a test kit by completing the form on this website: <https://www.gov.uk/register-coronavirus-antibody-test>



**Step 2:** The individual will then receive a text message from UK\_Gov with a 16-digit code and instructions for how to order their antibody test kit. Depending on demand, this may take a few weeks.



**Step 3:** Once the order has been placed, the individual will receive a text message confirmation. They should receive the antibody test kit in the post within 5 working days, but it may take up to 14 days.



**Step 4:** The individual will then draw their blood and fill the tube provided; they can also ask someone to help them should they wish to. Online instructions can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-antibody-home-test-kit-taking-a-blood-sample>



**Step 5:** The individual will then label their tube and container and put these in the provided specimen bag. They will then need to place those and the completed return form in the provided prepaid envelope and post in a priority post box.



**Step 6:** The individual will receive their result via text message and email within 7 days from the lab receiving their test. Please note it may take up to 14 days depending on demand.

## Please note:

- *The sample should be posted on the same day as the blood is taken in a Royal Mail priority post-box. It is better to draw your blood on a week day to avoid longer delays over a weekend.*
- *When ordering the test online please ensure the form is completed in one sitting to prevent the webpage timing out.*
- *Should you have any issues with the portals or an incorrect code, you will need to re-register as per step 1.*



# Any Questions?

Please note that you can always contact us via the following e-mail should you have any questions: **[antibodytesting@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:antibodytesting@dhsc.gov.uk)**

