INTEGRIS

Guidance on Interpreting COVID-19 Test Results
07.07.20

	Result	Interpretation	Reccomended Action
VIRAL TESTING† (testing for current infection)	Positive	*Most likely** you DO <u>currently</u> have an active COVID-19 infection and can give the virus to others.	<u>Stay home* and follow CDC guidance</u> on steps to take if you are sick. *If you are a healthcare or critical infrastructure worker, notify your work of your test result.
	Negative	*Most likely** you DO NOT <u>currently</u> have an active COVID-19 infection.	If you have symptoms, you should keep monitoring symptoms and seek medical advice about staying home and if you need to get tested again. If you don't have symptoms, you should get tested again only if your medical provider and/or workplace tells you to. <u>Take steps to protect yourself and others.</u>
ANTIBODY TESTING† (testing for past infection with the virus)	Positive‡	You *likely** HAD a COVID-19 infection.	You may be protected from re-infection (have immunity), but this cannot be said with certainty. Scientists are conducting studies now to provide more information. Take steps to protect yourself and others.
	Negative	You *likely** NEVER HAD (or have not yet developed antibodies to) COVID-19 infection.	You could still get COVID-19. <u>Take steps to protect yourself and others.</u>
BOTH (antibody and viral testing)	Viral Positive, Antibody Positive‡	*Most likely** you DO <u>currently</u> have an active COVID-19 infection and can give the virus to others.	<u>Stay home* and follow CDC guidance</u> on steps to take if you are sick. *If you are a healthcare or critical infrastructure worker, notify your work of your test result.
	Viral Positive, Antibody Negative	*Most likely** you DO <u>currently</u> have an active COVID-19 infection and can give the virus to others	<u>Stay home* and follow CDC guidance</u> on steps to take if you are sick. *If you are a healthcare or critical infrastructure worker, notify your work of your test result.
	Viral Negative, Antibody Positive	You *likely** HAD and RECOVERED FROM a COVID-19 infection.	You may be protected from re-infection (have immunity), but this cannot be said with certainty. Scientists are conducting studies now to provide more information. You should get tested again only if your medical provider and/or workplace tells you to. <u>Take steps to protect yourself and others.</u>
	Viral Negative, Antibody Negative	You *likely** NEVER HAD a COVID-19 infection.	You could still get COVID-19. You should get tested again only if your medical provider and/or workplace tells you to. <u>Take steps to protect yourself and others.</u>

*No test is ever perfect. All tests occasionally result in false positive results (the test result should be negative because you DO NOT have COVID-19 but comes back positive) or false negative results (the test result should be positive because you DO have COVID-19, but comes back negative). Sometimes the results are not definitive (the result is unclear, and you don't know if it is positive or negative). For this and other reasons, results should always be reviewed by a healthcare professional.

† Viral tests are typically performed on respiratory specimens such as nasal swabs or throat swabs. They test for the presence of the virus, usually by testing for the virus's RNA or sometimes by testing for the virus's proteins ("antigen testing"). Antigen testing may be less sensitive than tests for the virus's RNA. If your antigen test is negative, please ask your healthcare provider if additional testing with an RNA test is needed and how long you should stay home.

‡ Antibody testing, also called "serologic testing" or "serology", is typically performed on a blood sample. Ideally, the results show whether you have ever been infected with the virus in the past or may be currently infected. Antibody tests check for antibodies that appear in the blood between about one and three weeks after symptom onset. Antibody tests may be positive while a person is infected. It is not yet known whether these antibodies protect against reinfection with the COVID-19 virus. For many other similar viruses, antibodies are protective for years or longer, but we do not yet have adequate data to know for COVID-19.

What you should know about COVID-19 to protect yourself and others
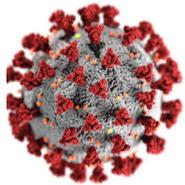
KNOW ABOUT COVID-19

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an illness caused by a virus that can spread from person to person.
- The virus that causes COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that has spread throughout the world.
- COVID-19 symptoms can range from mild (or no symptoms) to severe illness.

KNOW HOW COVID-19 IS SPREAD

- You can become infected by coming into close contact (about 6 feet or two arm lengths) with a person who has COVID-19. COVID-19 is primarily spread from person to person.
- You can become infected from respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- COVID-19 may also be transmitted by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then by touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.

PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS FROM COVID-19

- There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to protect yourself is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Stay home as much as possible and avoid close contact with others.
- Wear a cloth face covering that covers your nose and mouth in public settings.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Buy groceries and medicine, go to the doctor, and complete banking activities online when possible.
- If you must go in person, stay at least 6 feet away from others and disinfect items you must touch.
- Get deliveries and takeout, and limit in-person contact as much as possible.

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IF YOU ARE SICK

- Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Avoid public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.
- Separate yourself from other people and pets in your home.
- There is no specific treatment for COVID-19, but you can seek medical care to help relieve your symptoms.
- If you need medical attention, call ahead.
- If you have received a COVID-19 screen prior to a procedure and develop a fever or other signs of illness before your procedure, notify the physician performing your procedure.

KNOW YOUR RISK FOR SEVERE ILLNESS

- Everyone is at risk of getting COVID-19.
- Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more severe illness.

cdc.gov/coronavirus