

## **INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19 ANTIBODY TESTING**

Avicenna Health are now able to arrange Covid-19 'Antibody' testing – a test to see if you have HAD the virus.

### **Important information:**

*Recent guidance from the MHRA (8<sup>th</sup> June 2020) has suggested:*

- *The most accurate way of arranging antibody testing is to have a blood test (taken from a vein, by a healthcare professional) which is sent to the laboratory for analysis.*
- *Tests taken by the patient themselves (finger prick), even if returned to the laboratory for analysis, are thought to be inaccurate and are undergoing further evaluation.*
- *Tests which give a 'bedside' result in 10 minutes are not accurate and should not be used.*

**We are therefore only offering the test, which is taken by a phlebotomist, from a vein and sent to the laboratory for analysis:**

### **Cost:**

- £99 for the first person tested
- £89 for the second person tested, at the same time, in the same household
- £79 per test for each subsequent person tested, at the same time, in the same household

\* Prices include the cost of the phlebotomist to visit, although the cost for the first person is higher if you do not live in our catchment area.

### **To Book:**

- Email: [enquiries@avicenna-health.com](mailto:enquiries@avicenna-health.com)
  - Please send us:
    - Full Names & DOB of all those having the test
    - Address that the phlebotomist will be visiting to take the blood
    - email for the results to be returned
    - Contact number for us to contact you to answer any questions you have, take payment and arrange the phlebotomist to visit

### **The Results:**

- Results are usually received within 12-24 hours of having the blood test

*Further detail on the next page – please read:*

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**The Difference between Antibody (IgG/IgM) tests and Antigen tests:**

**Which one do I need? How accurate are they? How do I arrange a test? How much does it cost?**

**If you want to know:**

- if the fever and illness you had over 14 days ago was likely to be covid-19

Then it is the **IgG antibody blood test** you need:

- This is the right information sheet
- Please keep reading below

**If you want to know:**

- if you are NOT carrying the Covid-19 virus, so you can travel
- if any symptoms of fever, cough or loss of smell are due to you having the covid-19 infection.

Then it is the **Antigen test** which you should have:

- This is NOT the right information sheet for you
  - please visit <http://www.avicenna-health.com/covid-antibody-testing/cmsarticle/>
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*Further detail on the next page – please read:*

## The Detail:

- **IgG Antibody Blood Test:**

- This test is testing whether you have been exposed to the virus or not; It is not to test if you currently have the virus. It looks for the presence of antibodies that your body has produced in response to being exposed to the virus. It is best done 2-3 weeks AFTER any possible infection
- There is no upper or lower age limit to having the test

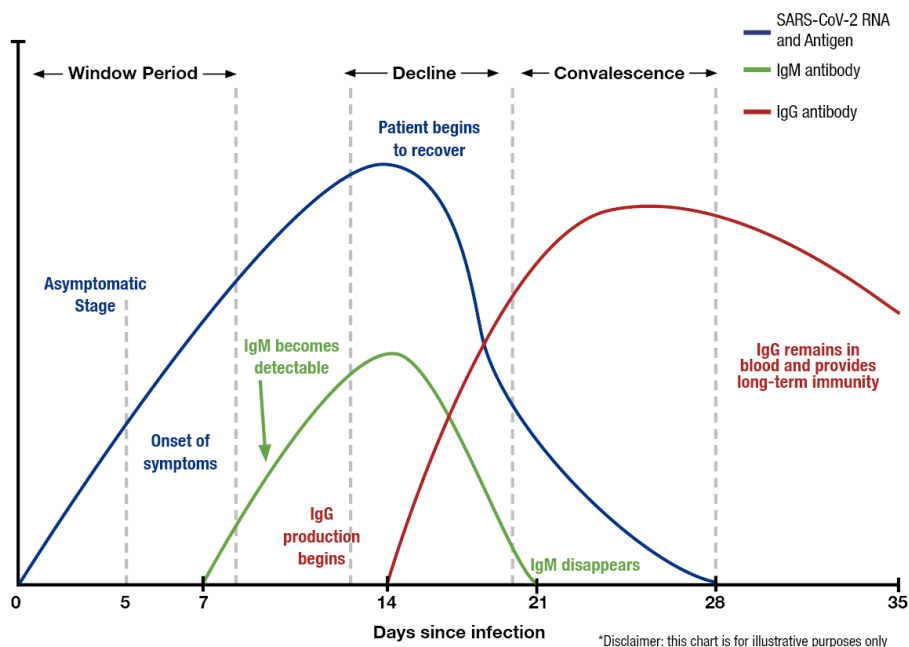
- How accurate is this test?

- It is only very recently, in April 2020, that reliable tests for the presence of antibodies have been made available here. The best and most reliable so far are the Abbott and Roche IgG test.
- The Abbott's test
  - It has been shown to be **99% accurate in detecting antibodies 14 days** after the first symptoms of confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection.
    - Therefore, the ideal time to take the test is 14 to 21 days after you suspected the first symptoms developed.
  - All tests cannot be 100% accurate but they are evaluated on their sensitivity and specificity. The Abbott test has very good results as below:
    - It has a specificity of 99.9% (which means if your test is negative, there is only a 0.1% chance that is you actually had the virus, but the test has given a false negative). Please note that some people do not develop antibodies even after proven infection with Covid 19
    - It has a sensitivity of 97.5% (which means that if your test is positive, 2.5% of people will test falsely positive even if they have NOT had the virus)
- What does the result mean?
  - There is still much to learn about what is safe behaviour after finding out your result.
  - It is not yet known whether antibodies do give immunity and if they do, for how long.
  - It is most definitely not recommended that anyone assumes they have immunity and can go about life as what used to be normal before this pandemic just because there are antibodies in their blood.  
So do not throw away the hand gel and start hugging people who cough just yet!

- How do I arrange a test?:

- Once you have decided this is the test you need, please email us at [enquiries@avicenna-health.com](mailto:enquiries@avicenna-health.com) – please include the full names & DOB of those having the test, the address that the phlebotomist will be visiting to take the blood, an email to return the results to and your contact number so we can answer any further questions you have, take payment and arrange for the phlebotomist to visit.
- The results will be sent back to you within 18 to 24 hours of the test
  - If you choose, you can arrange for our doctors to call you to discuss the results with you.

Graph showing how the body responds to an infection with production of antibodies:



Kind Regards,



Private General Practice

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