



Antibody Testing Programme for Adult Social Care and Care Home Staff

Information FAQs

What is an antibody test?

This is a blood test which is used to find antibodies for the COVID-19 virus to help determine if someone has already had it.

What do antibody test results mean?

A positive antibody test will show if someone has had COVID-19 and that their body has responded. However, this does not mean that the person is immune, or that they cannot pass on the virus to others. It does not mean that they can ignore social distancing measures

Covid-19 is a new disease, and our understanding of the body's immune response to it is limited. We do not know, for example, how long an antibody response lasts, nor whether having antibodies means you can't transmit the virus to others.

Our understanding of the virus will grow as new scientific evidence and studies emerge.

An antibody test result can only tell an individual whether or not they have had the virus in the past. Antibody tests are also being used currently in surveillance studies, to understand what proportion of the population have already had the virus.

If you test positive for antibodies, can you ignore lockdown restrictions?

No. There is no evidence yet to suggest that those who have been proven to have had the virus are immune. This is the position of the World Health Organisation.

You should continue to comply with social distancing measures and government guidelines. All infection prevention and control measures must continue to be in place irrespective of the presence of antibodies.

What if I have a negative test?

Some people are surprised to find that they do not have antibodies. For some-one who has experienced COVID-19 symptoms but had a negative result there are a number of reasons why this might be the case:

- ⇒ You may not have produced any detectable antibody
- ⇒ Your body may not have had enough time to produce detectable antibodies
- ⇒ The time from COVID-19 infection was long enough ago that antibodies are no longer detectable
- ⇒ You may have had a different illness

How do I get tested?

Go to: brisdoc.co.uk/local-coordination-centre-bnssg/ to find details of how you can access the test.

How will I be informed of the result?

Contact your GP if you had the test at your GP surgery. If you had your test at Emersons Green your results will be communicated to you either via SMS to the mobile number you provide. Results will usually be provided within 48hrs but this is subject to operational processes.

Are there any risks to having the test?

There are some risks related to having a blood test, such as feeling dizzy and faint during and after the test but nothing specific to this antibody test. Risks can also include bruising. Serious complications such as an infection at the site where blood was taken and phlebitis (swelling of the vein) are possible but generally extremely unlikely.

What do I need to take with me?

Face covering/mask and a form of ID/proof of eligibility

How will my information be used?

Aggregated and anonymised test results will be collated the labs and sent to Public Health England to be used to monitor prevalence and inform policy on infection control. The anonymised results across the testing programme will also provide information on the prevalence of COVID-19 in different regions of the country and help to better understand how the disease spreads.

BrisDoc, our partner organization may be involved to book your test and will use your information to process this

Your confidential information will be held in your medical records.

What if I am feeling anxious or unsettled about my test results?

This can be a difficult time, but there is support available. If you are feeling anxious or in need of extra support, please speak with your line manager or contact your staff wellbeing service if you have one. If neither of these are available to you, please contact brisdoc.bnssglcc@nhs.net for assistance

When I go for a blood test, what am I agreeing to?

- ◇ I confirm that I have read the above information; I understand that my participation is voluntary and I consent for this procedure.
- ◇ I have had the opportunity to consider the information and can confirm that I understand the nature and purpose of this procedure, together with the benefits and risks.
- ◇ I have confirmed a positive test will not mean at this point that I am immune and therefore I will continue to behave as if I might get or pass on the infection

Where do I go to have my antibody test taken?

If your own GP practice is one of the ones listed below, please make an appointment with them and state that you would like to have bloods taken for an antibody test for Covid-19. Let them know that you are one of the eligible groups. It is important that you take the information and consent form with you, together with a form of identification/badge to prove that you are eligible for the test.

168 Medical Group	Hillview Family Practice
Air Balloon Surgery	Kingswood Health Centre
Almondsbury Surgery	Maytrees Practice
Bedminster Family Practice	Mendip Vale Medical Practice
Beechwood Medical Practice	Montpelier Health Centre
Birchwood Medical Practice	Pembroke Rd Surgery
Bradley Stoke Surgery	Pilning Surgery
Broadmead Medical Centre	Pioneer Medical Group
Cadbury Heath Healthcare	Portishead Medical Group
Charlotte Keel Medical Practice	Priory Surgery
Clevedon Medical Centre	Shirehampton Group Practice
Close Farm Surgery	St Mary Street Surgery
Horfield Health Centre	Southmead & Henbury Family Practice
Concord Medical Centre	Stafford Medical Group
Courtside Surgery	Stockwood Medical Centre
Crest Family Practice	The Family Practice
Downend Health Group	The Old School Surgery
Eastville Medical Practice	The Orchard Medical Centre
Falldon Way Medical Centre	The Milton Surgery
Fishponds Family Practice	Three Shires Medical Practice
Frome Valley Medical Centre	Tyntesfield Practice
Bridge View Medical	Harbourside Family Practice
Grange Road Surgery	Wellington Road Family Practice
Greenway Community Practice	West Walk Surgery
Hanham Health	Whiteladies Medical Group
Helios Medical Centre	Winscombe & Banwell Family Practice
Heywood Family Practice	

For those of you whose practice is not listed above,

Please visit:

brisdock.co.uk/local-coordination-centre-bnssg/

download and complete the Antibody Testing Consent Form - for Social Care and Care Home staff (right hand side of web page)

Email the completed form to:

brisdock.bnssglcc@nhs.net

You will receive a call back from the team to make your appointment at the Emersons Green Treatment Centre.