

PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

What is an antibody test?

An antibody test can tell you whether you have had the virus that causes Covid-19 in the past, by analysing a blood sample.

Antibody tests are being used to help us understand how many people in the population have already had the virus.

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

No. There is no evidence yet to suggest that people who have had the virus are immune. We also don't know whether having antibodies means you can't transmit the virus to others. This is the position of the World Health Organisation. Covid-19 is a new disease, and our understanding of the body's immune response to it is limited.

You should continue to follow social distancing advice and government guidelines regardless of the results of the test.

How will I be informed of the result?

Your GP will be informed of the result and you can find out the result in the same way you would usually get a test result from your practice. Many people have access to their medical record online and you may be able to see your result using the practice online system.

How will my information be used?

The results from the testing programme will provide information on the spread of COVID-19 across the country and in different regions.

The results will be anonymised when being used for this purpose, meaning that it will not be possible to identify you or that your result applies to you.

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. Risks can also include bruising at the venepuncture site. 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.