

COVID-19 tests: Choosing the right antibody test

Antibodies are proteins that your body produces in response to an infection or a vaccine.



Spike protein tests detect the antibodies from a prior or recent infection, **even if symptoms were not present**.

Positive results may also occur after a COVID-19 vaccination, but the clinical significance of these results is unknown.

Nucleocapsid tests detect the antibodies from a prior or recent infection when **symptoms were present**.

 Antibody tests should NOT be used to detect active infection of COVID-19.

Antibody testing for the purposes of vaccine decision making is not currently recommended by the CDC.



Administered by blood test

An antibody test must be prescribed and administered by a healthcare professional in a clinical setting.

No swabs

Unlike tests for active infection, there are no nasal or saliva swabs.



A good antibody test should have a high degree of

Sensitivity

which identifies people who **have antibodies** present.

100%

captures all positive results.

Specificity

which identifies people who **don't have antibodies** present.

≥ 99.5%

avoids false positives.



Choose a reputable antibody test

The FDA has granted Emergency Use Authorization for antibody tests that have demonstrated how sensitive and specific their results are.

90 antibody tests are authorized by FDA[†] [Explore them here »](#)

Visit ActAgainstCOVID.com for more information