

COVID-19 Antibody Testing Frequently Asked Questions

What is the COVID-19 antibody test?

The COVID-19 antibody test will show if your immune system has responded to the virus by producing antibodies. Most people who have antibodies will have had some symptoms of the disease, such as fever, cough, or trouble breathing, but some persons may have antibodies even though they never had symptoms. COVID-19 antibody testing will be performed in addition to the standard infectious disease testing all blood donations receive. The Blood Center will invite donors who test positive for the antibodies to return and give convalescent plasma to help patients recover in local hospitals.

What test is Kentucky Blood Center using to look for the COVID-19 antibody?

Kentucky Blood Center is using the Roche Diagnostics Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 Test. This test is authorized by the FDA under an Emergency Use Authorization, which means it can be used only during the time of the Coronavirus pandemic crisis.

Is the COVID-19 antibody test the same as a diagnostic test?

No. The COVID-19 antibody test does **not** test for the presence of the virus that causes COVID-19. The antibody test looks to see if the blood contains antibodies to the virus. The test does **not** check for the presence of an **active** COVID-19 infection.

Do I need an appointment to donate and receive the COVID-19 antibody test?

Appointment are encouraged to secure your donation opportunity and to facilitate social distancing. You may also complete your health history questions on the day of your donation prior to your arrival using our [QuickPass](#) tool.

Does the antibody test cost me anything?

No. The test is free to blood donors. This test is available to donors who complete a whole blood donation, platelet or double red blood cell donation.

Should I be worried if I test positive for COVID-19 antibodies?

The COVID-19 antibody is **not** harmful to you and it is **not** harmful if transfused to a patient. In fact, it has special lifesaving potential. Studies have shown that transfusing the plasma from a person who has recovered from the coronavirus into a patient still fighting the virus can help boost the patient's immune system and potentially help them recover. The product is known as COVID-19 convalescent plasma.

If I test positive for the COVID-19 antibody will my plasma be used to help a coronavirus patient?

Plasma derived from donations that test positive for the COVID-19 antibody could be designated as convalescent plasma and used to treat patients fighting COVID-19 at one of our partner hospitals. In addition, you may be contacted regarding future convalescent plasma donations by our team.

Do I have to donate blood to get the COVID-19 antibody test?

Yes, in order to get the COVID-19 antibody test, a complete donation must be given. This test is available to donors who complete a whole blood, platelet or double red blood cell donation. You do not need to have donated before with Kentucky Blood Center to receive the COVID-19 antibody test.

Do I need to have a successful donation to receive my results?

Yes. You must have a successful donation in order to receive COVID-19 antibody results. Kentucky Blood Center's standard operating procedure is that only completed donations move on to testing at our laboratory. Therefore, if you are unable to complete your donation, the COVID-19 antibody test, as well as all standard infectious disease testing will not be performed or provided.

If I test positive for the antibodies does it mean I am immune to COVID-19?

No. A positive result indicates that you may have had previous exposure to COVID-19 and your body has developed antibodies to the virus. This is not a diagnostic test. Both the FDA and CDC have said they do not know if the antibodies that result from a COVID-19 infection will provide someone with immunity from a future coronavirus infection.

How will I receive my results after I donate?

Your results will be available in our donor portal online at kybloodcenter.org **approximately 7-10 days after your donation**. You **MUST** provide a current email address at registration to receive information on activating your account post-donation. If you already have an account you can login with your username and password. The results will be listed in the Wellness Center area. Results will not be mailed or relayed over the phone. Antibody test results will appear in the portal within 7-10 days of your donation, though your other wellness results may appear sooner than that.

How long will Kentucky Blood Center be providing the COVID-19 antibody testing?

Kentucky Blood Center will provide COVID-19 antibody testing on all donations at each of its six donor centers and on all mobile blood drives through December 31, 2020.