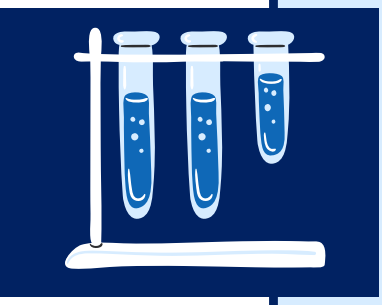
Stop the Spread
of COVID-19

What is antibody testing?

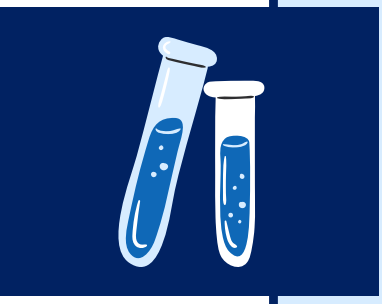


Antibody tests can't tell you if you currently have COVID-19. These tests detect the body's immune response to the virus that causes COVID-19. Unfortunately, the test doesn't turn positive until after you are already getting well. This is too late for you to isolate yourself to keep from spreading the virus to others.

Limitations of antibody testing

- The test may not show you have COVID-19, when in fact you do.
- Some of the antibody tests can cross react with viruses that cause the common cold, showing you have COVID-19, when in fact you don't.
- There is no evidence that a positive test means you will be immune from COVID-19 in the future.

What is PCR testing?



Separate PCR tests can detect the actual presence of the virus and confirm an active COVID-19 infection. Visit healthy.arkansas.gov for more information about getting a PCR test if you have symptoms or believe you have been exposed to the virus.

Learn more at healthy.arkansas.gov or call 1-800-803-7847.