

# Direct Access

## IgG Antibody Tests



### 1. What is an IgG Antibody Blood Test for COVID-19?

Prairie Lakes Laboratory's IgG antibody test checks your blood by looking for antibodies, which show if you had a previous COVID-19 infection.

### 2. What does a test result mean for me?

- **Results are informational only.**
  - An IgG test is not used to diagnose a current COVID-19 infection.
- **If you test positive:**
  - A positive test result shows you have antibodies that likely resulted from an infection with SARS-CoV-2, or possibly a related coronavirus.
  - It's unclear if those antibodies can provide protection (immunity) against getting infected again. This means that we do not know at this time if antibodies make you immune to the virus.
- **If you test negative:**
  - You probably did not have a previous COVID-19 infection. It's possible you could still get sick if you have been exposed to the virus recently, since antibodies don't show up for 1 to 3 weeks after infection. This means you could still spread the virus.
  - Some people may take even longer to develop antibodies, and some people may not develop antibodies.
- **Regardless of test results, guidelines published by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are still recommended for everyone.**
  - Wash your hands often
  - Practice Social Distancing
    - Stay at least 6 ft from other people
    - Do not gather in large groups (greater than 10 people)
  - Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others
    - Wear a cloth face cover when in the public, unless you are under the age of 2 or have trouble breathing.
  - If you cough or sneeze use the inside of your elbow or a tissue and wash your hands.
  - Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

### 3. Who can have an IgG Antibody Test?

Anyone can have a test who believes they had COVID-19 at a minimum of 8–10 days ago. This test is not intended to be used to diagnose a current infection of COVID-19.

#### **4. How much does it cost?**

The cost is \$70 and will be collected at the time of testing. The fastest method is payment by check. Insurance does not cover this test without a physician's order.

#### **5. How do I take the test?**

You will need to be without COVID-19 symptoms. This test requires a blood draw, which will be done in the Laboratory at Prairie Lakes Healthcare System.

No scheduling is necessary and testing is available:

- Monday – Friday
- 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Enter through the Main Lobby and proceed to the Laboratory

#### **6. How will I receive the results?**

- Results can be mailed the following business day to the address you provide to staff upon payment.
- Results are available on your Prairie Lakes patient portal account.
- Results can be picked up at the Prairie Lakes Laboratory 2 hours after your blood draw.
- Please note your results will not be mailed to your primary care provider as this test is for informational purposes only.

#### **7. If you have COVID-19 symptoms now.**

- Please stay home. If needed a symptom checker and more details are available at [prairielakes.com](http://prairielakes.com) or contact a healthcare provider to see if you should be tested.