

## Covid-19 Antibody testing – community and non-hospital based staff

Dear Colleagues,

Airedale NHS Foundation Trust and Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust have been charged with providing antibody testing for community health and social care staff and NHS contractors in the wider Bradford area.

This testing will take place at Skipton General Hospital and St Lukes Hospital. The booking systems for these two sites will be the same however the methods by which you receive your results will be different.

Before booking for this test it is important that you understand the purpose and value of the test, and to help with this there are a list of frequently asked questions below.

### What is an antibody test?

An antibody test can tell someone whether they have had SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes Covid-19) in the past, by analysing a blood sample. It does not indicate current active infection.

### What do antibody test results mean?

A **positive** antibody test, reported as DETECTED, shows that someone has developed antibodies to the virus. The presence of antibodies signals that the body has staged an immune response to the virus.

A **negative** antibody test, reported as NOT DETECTED, means that you *probably* haven't had the virus, although some people who have had Covid-19 do not produce detectable antibodies, and so would have a negative test result.

An **indeterminate** antibody test, reported as EQUIVOCAL, means the test is difficult to interpret, this is seen in less than 1 in 100 tests and means that we cannot tell if you have antibodies or not.

Covid-19 is a new disease, and our understanding of the body's immune response to it is limited. We do not know how long an antibody response lasts, whether it confers a safe level of immunity, or whether having antibodies means you cannot transmit the virus to others.

Our understanding of the virus will grow as new scientific evidence and studies emerge. Antibody tests are also used to help us understand what proportion of the population has already had the virus.

### **If you test positive for antibodies, can you ignore lockdown restrictions?**

No. There is no evidence yet to suggest that those who have been proven to have had the virus are immune. This is the position of the World Health Organisation.

You should continue to comply with social distancing measures and government guidelines. All infection prevention and control measures must continue to be in place irrespective of the presence of antibodies.

### **How will I be informed of the result?**

If you are tested at St Lukes Hospital you will receive a text message from Bradford Teaching hospitals within 9 days of the test being taken. If your test is carried out at Skipton General Hospital then you will receive the results in the post in a similar timeframe.

### **How will my information be used?**

Your personal information and test results are confidential and will not be disclosed to third parties without informed consent. In the case of a negative antibody result, you may be contacted to discuss taking part in a trial of a new vaccine. The lawful basis for processing such health data is under Article 9(2)(h) GDPR: preventative or occupational medicine

The anonymised results across the whole national testing programme will provide information on the prevalence of COVID-19 in different regions of the country and help better understand how the disease spreads.

Anonymised data will also be used by the Trusts to understand the impact of COVID-19 on our hospitals and community.

### **Are there any risks to having the test?**

There are some risks related to having a blood test, such as feeling dizzy during and after the test but nothing specific to the antibody test. Risks can also include bruising at the injection 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.

### **Are there any consequences to having the test ?**

The doctors trade union (The BMA) has raised concerns that some doctors life insurance applications have been delayed because insurance companies have mis-interpreted a COVID 19 antibody test as being a swab test for active infection. The BMA has written to insurance companies to seek clarity. You must ensure that you are happy to proceed with this test before booking a slot.

### **What do I do if I have further questions ?**

Information on the government website is available – please click here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-antibody-tests>

You could also discuss your results with your GP if you have further questions.

### **What do I do next ?**

To be tested please go to follow the links below to our booking service. Further slots will be added regularly and so please check back later if none are available now.

To book at Skipton Hospital go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/antibody-tests-for-community-staff-skipton-hospital-30962753647>

To book at St Lukes Hospital go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/30962719409>

Please ensure you print out, read and sign the consent form below and bring it with you.

## Covid-19 Antibody testing - Consent

- I confirm that I have read the above information; I understand that my participation is voluntary and I consent for this procedure.
- I have had the opportunity to consider the information and ask questions, and can confirm that I understand the nature and purpose of this procedure, together with the benefits and risks.
- I understand that a positive test will not mean at this point that I am immune and therefore I will continue to behave as if I might get or pass on the infection.
- I understand that the result will be shared only as absolutely necessary to allow it to be communicated to me.
- I understand that my result will be shared anonymously with the national screening programme to help understanding of the disease within our country and also locally to understand the impact of the disease on our hospital.
- I understand that the antibody result will be stored in my EPR (Cerner Electronic Patient Record) which is held by Bradford Teaching Hospitals or ICE system at Airedale NHS Foundation Trust, with appropriate Information Governance safeguards.
- If my antibody test comes back negative, I understand that I may be contacted again to discuss taking part in a vaccine trial for Covid-19
- I understand that my mobile number may be used to provide me with the blood test result via text message
- I understand that my blood sample may be stored within the laboratory
- I declare that the information I have given on this form is correct and complete.

Full name..... DOB .....

Mobile phone number (for result communication).....

Main area of work .....

Have you tested positive for Corona Virus at any time ? .....

Have you had a swab test for Corona Virus at any time ? .....

Signature

Date