The value of COVID-19 testing

Combined testing to detect the virus and antibodies that may protect against it is essential to safely return employees to work.

Highly accurate tests are critical

With everything that is at stake, test accuracy is critical to minimize risks for employees and communities. There are numerous tests to detect the virus or antibodies to the virus; only a few are highly accurate.

A good antibody test is one that has specificity between 95% and 100%.


Highly accurate tests minimize individual risk and inform action

Test to determine if infection is resolved and not spreading.

- Highly accurate tests should maximize specificity. Some have 100% specificity.
- High sensitivity is important because it better detects the virus.
- Action: Follow guidance for additional care and actions.
- Guarantee to stop transmission.
- Identify contact tracing and test for asymptomatic spread.
- Detect infected individuals when not infected and spreading the virus.
- Sensitivity defines the test's ability to identify those with antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, and specificity defines the ability to identify those without antibodies to SARS-CoV-2.

Highly accurate tests limit COVID-19 spread and contain outbreaks

Test to assess if infection is present.

- Highly accurate tests have over 99.5% specificity and over 90% sensitivity. Some have demonstrated 98% specificity and 100% sensitivity.
- Sensitivity defines the test's ability to accurately identify those with antibodies to SARS-CoV-2.

What tests should you be given and how should you interpret the results?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test to determine if infection is resolved and not spreading.</th>
<th>Test to assess if infection is present.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average speed: 2 Hours to 5 Days*</td>
<td>Average speed: 30 Minutes to 5 Days*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Accuracy: 
- Highly accurate tests have over 95% specificity and over 90% sensitivity. Some have demonstrated 98% specificity and 100% sensitivity. 
- Sensitivity defines the test's ability to identify those with antibodies to SARS-CoV-2. | 
- You likely had COVID-19 and may have some level of immunity to future re-infection.
- Action: Take a new test if negative, you may return to the workplace. Self-adhere to mask wearing regularly to ensure antibodies are not present. |

Let's get back to work safely

With the right tests at the right time for the right person, we can make informed decisions and move ahead with more confidence.

Swab, sample mucus from nose or throat

Detects genetic information that indicates the virus is present and may be active.

Accurate virus detection test

Blood draw, using a test tube

Detects antibodies that may indicate some level of immunity. Some tests growing research shows 99.5% of immunity.

Accurate antibody detection test

**Accuracy**

A highly accurate test should minimize false results.

**Sensitivity**

A test's ability to identify those with antibodies to SARS-CoV-2.

**Specificity**

A test's ability to identify those without antibodies to SARS-CoV-2.

**Results and actions if you test positive**

- You are highly likely to have COVID-19.
- You most likely have COVID-19.
- Take an antibody test to see if you may have been infected but seem asymptomatic.

**Results and actions if you test negative**

- You likely never had COVID-19.
- You could still get COVID-19.
- Take a new test if negative, you may return to the workplace. Self-adhere to mask wearing regularly to ensure antibodies are not present.