

SD Biosensor COVID-19 IgM/IgG antibody Duo (C19 antibody test)

Frequently asked questions

1. What is the C19 antibody test?

This is a test that looks for proteins produced by the body in response to an infection with SARS-CoV-2 that causes Covid-19. It works in a similar way to the rapid tests for Malaria or HIV utilizing a small blood sample, with the result available within a short time.

2. How long will it take to get my result?

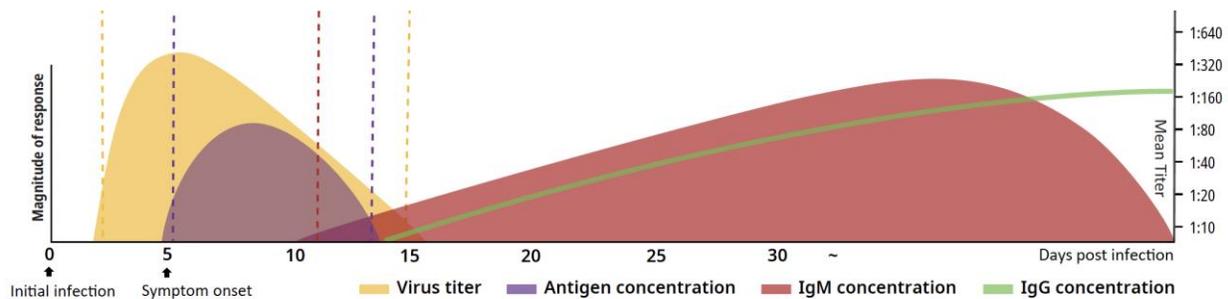
In the ideal situation, it could take 15 minutes, however, for reasons of quality control, documentation and record keeping, tests conducted at JMS will take about 4 hours

3. What does a positive result mean?

The test looks for two antibodies: IgM and IgG.

IgM positive indicates active Covid-19 while IgG indicates previous/past infection usually with no active disease. When both are positive it indicates increasing immunity from current infection. Here is a summary:

- IGM -ve / IgG +ve Prior infection.
- IGM +ve / IgG -ve Early stage infection.
- IGM +ve / IgG +ve Increasing immunity from current infection.



4. If I have a positive result, does it mean I am now immune?

The test only indicates that antibodies were detected – not how strong the antibody response is. Immunity occurs not when antibodies can be detected, but when the overall immune system itself can resolve an infection before symptoms occur and before the virus reaches a level where there is transmission to others. Asymptomatic infections may test positive but have poor immunity, therefore protective measures will continue to be necessary.

5. Should I retake the test if my result is negative?

In some circumstances, we may advise that for those with a negative test, a repeat test can be conducted after a 7-14-day interval in the event. The possibility of early illness may warrant for the



repeat test. Where possible exposure is a concern, we may however recommend a different test if the exposure is assessed as significant.

- IGM -ve / IgG -ve Means no prior infection / too early in illness /non-converter.

6. Can the test be used to diagnose Covid-19 for isolation and treatment?

No. This aspect is limited because the antibodies only start to be produced in the second week, which is long after the infection. The test is therefore not used in treatment settings but is used to give an indication of prevalence in the tested population.

7. Who should take the test?

If you recently had symptoms that you thought resembled covid-19 and they passed, or you think you may have been exposed to Covid-19 but did not get sick, within the past 7 to 14 days, you are welcome to take the test. The medical service may also advise frontline staff to take the test.

8. How accurate is the test?

The accuracy of the test increases with time, with the chances of detecting a positive result increasing at about day 8-10 following possible infection.

9. Should I take the test if I have symptoms?

No. If you have symptoms, we suggest a different type of test known as the RT-PCR which would involve collecting swabbed samples from the back of the throat or nose.

10. Is the test mandatory?

This test is voluntary and is not a requirement of the organization

11. Is there a cost involved?

The test is free of charge to staff members.

12. Can my dependents be tested as well?

Due to limitations in stock of the test kits, the test is only available for UN personnel.

13. Can I take this test for clearance of my upcoming trip?

No. The C19 antibody test is not recommended for travel clearance purposes. Travel clearance as required by various country authorities only recognize the RT-PCR test.