

LIFESOUTH

Community Blood Centers

LifeSouth to test individuals for COVID-19 antibodies

LifeSouth is piloting a program to test individuals for COVID-19 antibodies. The blood test will detect if you have antibodies to the coronavirus. Unlike a test used to diagnose an active COVID-19 infection, this test can help identify individuals who have developed an immune response to the virus. The test detects the presence of antibodies in the blood – if antibodies are present, that indicates that the person has been exposed to the virus and has developed antibodies against it, which may mean that the person at least has some immunity to the coronavirus. In the early days of infection, when the body's immune system is still building, antibodies may not be detected, which is why serological tests should not be used as the sole basis to diagnose or exclude infection of COVID-19.

If you have never been diagnosed with COVID-19, this test can help determine previous exposure to the virus, or if you were diagnosed with COVID-19, this test can determine if you have developed antibodies.

We are only testing healthy individuals who have been symptom free for a minimum of 7 days.

Date: Tuesday, May 5, 12 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. by appointment only

Cost: \$50, credit card only

Location: LifeSouth, 4039 Newberry Road, Gainesville, Fla. in the Var Heyl Conference Center

Requirements: Bring with you a request to test from ordering physician or pharmacist

Appointment: Testing will performed by appointment ONLY, please make an appointment [HERE](#)

Results: Will be mailed

If you have questions, please contact bbwhitaker@lifesouth.org or 352-224-1728.

SARS-CoV-2 Antibody Testing FAQ

What are antibodies?

Antibodies are proteins that are made in response to foreign substances, or antigens, in your body. Once formed, these antibodies can recognize the foreign substance and help in the immune response that fights off diseases.

What is convalescent plasma?

Convalescent plasma is a term for plasma taken from a donor who has recovered from a disease. Plasma is the liquid portion of blood, and where antibodies reside in the body. Some research has suggested that transfusing plasma with preformed antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) may help speed recovery and prevent mortality in those critically ill with COVID-19.

What is a SARS-CoV-2 antibody test?

LifeSouth performs the VITROS Immunodiagnostic Products Anti-SARS-CoV-2 Total test, which looks for antibody to SARS-CoV-2. It is a total antibody test and does not differentiate between antibody classes (IgG, IgM, etc.), nor does it tell you the amount of antibody present. Most importantly, this test **is not a diagnostic test for COVID-19**. The test has been authorized for use by the FDA under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).

What does a reactive test mean?

A reactive result means that antibody to SARS-CoV-2 has been detected in your blood and you have likely been exposed to the virus. This result qualifies you to be a convalescent plasma donor under the current FDA guidelines if you meet all other eligibility criteria. A reactive result does not tell you when you may have been exposed to COVID-19 or whether you are immune to the virus. Per the FDA, a reactive antibody test “may mean that the person has at least some immunity to the coronavirus”. Reactive results can occur after recovery from the illness, or even while you are still fighting the virus. False reactive results may also occur due to cross-reactivity with other antibodies to similar viruses or substances in your body.

What does a non-reactive test mean?

A non-reactive test means that you either don't have antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, or their levels are lower than the ability of this test to detect. This result also means that you would not qualify as a convalescent plasma donor in our program. A non-reactive result does not mean that you do not currently have, or have not had, COVID-19. Many people who have had COVID-19 may not form a long-lasting antibody.

What should I do with these results?

The antibody test is not designed to be a diagnostic test. You may wish to share this information with your physician if you have questions about their significance to your personal health. These results are not intended to offer proof of immunity against COVID-19 infection.