

COVID-19 Antibody Test Service (ATS)

Information and Consent Form

In order to support the antibody testing programme roll out for NHS staff and patients, the Medvivo Team has been working around the clock behind the scenes to develop and mobilise an Antibody Testing Service for all Medvivo staff. We will also be collaborating with a number of partner organisations whose employees will come through the Medvivo ATS and will provide Phlebotomy resource to the service.

The antibody 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. This will work alongside PCR testing which confirms whether or not someone currently has the virus.

What is an antibody test and how is it different to the 'swab' test?

An antibody test can tell if someone has had the virus that causes COVID-19 in the past. It is different to the PCR (swab) test, which shows that someone currently has the virus. A positive PCR (swab) test does not necessarily indicate that someone will go on to develop antibodies to the virus and an immune response. It is possible that around 10% of people who test positive will not develop an immune response.

Why are antibody tests now being offered?

Antibody testing has a critical role to play in helping the UK learn about the level and length of immunity following infection and how the virus is spreading across the country. It will play an increasingly important role as we move into the next phase of responding to the coronavirus pandemic.

Who is eligible?

Anyone working for Medvivo, those working in General Practice or, one of the partner organisations working with Medvivo to deliver the ATS Service, may receive an antibody test through Medvivo ATS Service.

How is the test carried out?

The test requires a small venous blood sample to be obtained and sent to a laboratory for analysis.

What do the test results mean?

A positive antibody test result indicates that you have previously had the COVID-19 virus and have developed some form of immune response.

As a new disease, our understanding of the body's immune response COVID-19 is limited and will continue to grow as new scientific evidence and studies emerge. It is however a reasonable assumption, based on what we know about other viruses, that those who get the virus will be immune or resistant, at least for a limited period of time.

At present it is not clear how long an antibody response lasts for, or whether having antibodies means you can't transmit the virus to others. Therefore irrespective of the results, you must continue to comply with social distancing measures, good infection prevention and control, and government guidelines. The results do not affect your attendance at work.

I've heard that blood tests aren't accurate?

Media coverage has been focused on self-use finger-prick tests, which are still being developed and evaluated. The lab test which are you being offered is different, and has been independently evaluated by Public Health England at its reference laboratory at Porton Down. The test is one of the most reliable on the market, with the manufacturer reporting 100% sensitivity (14 days post PCR confirmation) and over 99.6% specificity.

Are there any risks to having the test?

There are no specific additional risks with the anti-body blood test. As with any blood test the normal risks include:

- Feeling dizzy or faint due to the procedure.
- Localised bruising over the venepuncture site.
- Phlebitis (swelling of the vein).
- Infection at the site (extremely rare)

How will my appointment be arranged?

Completing the online consent form via this [link](#), will generate a notification to the Medvivo Team. They will call you to arrange an appointment at a clinic of your choice, at a time of your choice.

There are two key elements to the booking and test request process that the Medvivo Team will complete;

1. A case will be created within Aadastra containing the employee's demographics and the appointment will be booked into the relevant clinic slot. Once the appointment has been completed, the case is moved to a 'pending result' queue and the case is closed when the test result has been communicated.
2. A test request will be entered onto the RUH ICE system. During this process, if an individual has had previous tests requested via the RUH lab, these will be visible to the member of the Medvivo Team making the referral.

Over the next couple of weeks we are mobilising clinics in a range of locations, with a range of clinic opening times, in order to try to provide as much capacity and convenience as quickly as possible. We understand and appreciate how eager many of you will be to have a test. We are arranging clinics, including the associated administrative and clinical resource, as fast and as safely as possible. On receipt of your completed electronic consent form, the Medvivo Team will endeavour get in touch with you as promptly as they can but please be patient. As the service evolves we will be able to accelerate each element of the process.

Clinics are now available at the following locations:

- Hathaway Surgery, Chippenham
- Moredon Medical Practice, Swindon
- Salisbury Medical Practice
- Keynsham Health Centre
- Dorothy House Hospice, Winsley

Please bring your own facemask / covering to the appointment and notify us immediately if you become symptomatic before your appointment so it can be rearranged. Contact details will be provided to you when you are called to arrange an appointment. If you have not hear back in 72 hours please let us know on 0300 111 6566.

How will I be informed of the result?

Following your clinic appointment, the blood tests are being carried out by the RUH Pathology Lab, and they will be sent to Medvivo via the ICE system. Results should be processed by the RUH within 24-72 hours and, once received at Medvivo, you will be informed of the result via a telephone call from one of the Medvivo Team. You will also be able to request a clinical call back should you wish to discuss your results further.

Confidentiality

The Medvivo Team will need to enter your name, date of birth, address and NHS number onto the supporting hospital's screening request system as well as the appointment booking system (Adastra). This information will then be submitted to the laboratory undertaking the analysis, with a label containing those details printed and attached to the blood sample vial. In some hospitals a unique barcode may be used instead of providing your details.

A consent form must be completed, and will be retained securely. The completion of the consent form will be logged on a secure system.

When the results are ready, they will be downloaded by the Medvivo secure system. Only the person communicating the results to you will have access to the full information which would identify it as being your result. Identifiable results will not be shared with anyone else, or recorded GP or staff record.

Anonymised results will be reported nationally as part of the NHS screening programme. Only anonymous information regarding the number of tests completed will be shared with organisations and commissioners.

Please refer to the Medvivo Privacy Notice attached to this e-mail.