CONTRA COSTA HEALTH SERVICES

COVID-19 TESTING

Test for Past Infection (Antibody Test)

Antibody tests check your blood to see if you had COVID-19 in the past.

The test does not detect if you have COVID-19 right now.

To see if you are currently infected, you need a viral test. Viral tests identify the virus in samples from your respiratory system, such as swabs from the inside of your nose.

If your antibody test is positive:

- Antibodies in your blood show you recovered from an infection with the virus that causes COVID-19.
- It is possible you could have had COVID-19 in the past, without having had any symptoms.
- We do not know if having antibodies can protect someone from getting infected again.
- You should continue to protect yourself and others because it is possible you could get the virus again.
- If you have symptoms of illness right now, but your antibody test is positive, you probably do not have COVID-19 right now.

If your antibody test is negative:

- You may not have had COVID-19 in the past.
- You could still have COVID-19 right now. The test will only be positive if you had the virus 1 to 3 weeks ago, or longer.
- If you have symptoms now, or get symptoms after the antibody test, you need a viral test (nose swab) to tell if you have COVID-19 right now.

Whether or not your antibody test is positive, it is important to keep protecting yourself and others by physical distancing, wearing masks or face coverings, washing your hands often and staying home if you feel sick.

For more information, visit:
coronavirus.cchealth.org/for-covid-19-patients

RESPONSE
Coronavirus (COVID-19)
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