

FAQs for Blood Donors COVID-19 Antibody Testing

Will this test tell me if I have COVID-19? It is very important to understand that if you are wondering if you have COVID-19 right now, this test will not help you. The test only shows whether you have been exposed to the virus in the past, not whether you have it now. If you are feeling sick, or if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and you want to know if you are infected, please do NOT donate. See your healthcare provider to get a test that will determine if you are infected. **We are providing this antibody test to help identify future, potential donors who can give convalescent plasma to help patients currently battling COVID-19.**

What COVID-19 antibody test is LifeStream using? We use Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics VITROS Immunodiagnostic Products Anti-SARS-CoV-2 Total Reagent Pack and Calibrator test. For more information, please visit <https://www.fda.gov/media/137362/download>. This test can indicate if a donor's immune system has produced antibodies to the virus, regardless of whether they ever had symptoms.

How long will LifeStream be testing donors? We will likely provide COVID-19 antibody testing on all donations throughout this summer.

How and when will I learn about my COVID-19 antibody test results? Confidential test results ("positive" or "negative") will be available in your private, online donor account approximately 2 weeks after your donation. Visit [LStream.org/profile/](https://www.lstream.org/profile/) to view step-by-step instructions.

It's been several weeks since I donated successfully, but I don't see any results in my online donor account. Why? Unfortunately, sometimes a blood sample cannot be tested because of a technical issue (for example, the blood in the sample may have clotted and is not suitable for testing). If this happens, and it's been more than 2 weeks, donors will not see any test results in their online donor account.

Do I have to complete my donation to get the COVID-19 antibody test? Yes. This test is available only to donors who successfully complete a whole blood, platelet, double red cell or plasma donation because the antibody test is part of the full panel of tests performed on each complete blood donation. Testing is not performed on incomplete donations.

Do I need to have a donation appointment to receive the COVID-19 antibody test? While you need to give a complete blood donation to receive the antibody test, you do not need an appointment. We strongly recommend that donors schedule an appointment, but it is not required to receive the antibody test as long as the donation is successfully completed. Walk-in donors may receive the antibody test as long as they complete their donation.

If I cannot donate blood, will I be able to get antibody test results? No, we are offering antibody testing only for complete donations that will be used for patient transfusion. The antibody test is one of the many tests that we conduct on blood donations.



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What does it mean if I have a positive test result? If you have a positive test result, it is likely that you have or previously had COVID-19 and that you have developed an antibody response to the virus. Your healthcare provider will work with you to determine how best to care for you based on the test results along with other factors of your medical history, including any previous symptoms, possible exposure to COVID-19, and the location of places you have recently traveled. There is also the chance that this test can give a positive result that is wrong (a false positive result). It is important that you work with your healthcare provider to help you understand the next steps you should take.

Those who have COVID-19 antibodies may have special lifesaving potential. Studies have shown that transfusing the plasma from a person who has recovered from the coronavirus (COVID-19 convalescent plasma) into a patient still fighting the virus may help boost the patient's immune system and potentially assist in recovery. Visit LStream.org/covidplasma for more info.

I got a positive antibody test result from LifeStream (or another blood bank or community screening effort). Why can't I give convalescent plasma right away? We appreciate your willingness and desire to help patients battling COVID-19. Thank you! The first step in finding future convalescent plasma donors is the COVID-19 antibody test. Next, donors with positive results must meet additional FDA eligibility criteria before they can donate convalescent plasma and must complete the online questionnaire at LStream.org/covidplasma.

If I have a positive antibody test, am I protected from getting COVID-19 again? It's unclear if these antibodies provide protection (immunity) against getting infected again. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have stated that they do not yet know if antibodies make people immune to the virus.

What does it mean if I have a negative test result? A negative test result means that the antibodies to the virus that causes COVID-19 were not found in your sample. However, it is possible for this test to give a negative result that is incorrect (false negative) in some people with COVID-19 infection. A negative result may occur if you are tested early in your illness and your body hasn't had time to produce antibodies to infection. If this is the case, your healthcare provider will consider the test result together with all other aspects of your medical history (such as symptoms, possible exposures, and geographical location of places you have recently traveled) in deciding how to care for you. It is important that you work with your healthcare provider to help you understand the next steps you should take.

What does it mean if I have a "not tested (NT)" test result? It is possible that for a variety of reasons, your sample could not be tested for antibodies to the virus that causes COVID-19. Possible reasons include breakage or loss of the sample tube, technical issues in the testing lab, or other factors beyond our control. As a result, we are unable to provide you with results from this particular blood donation. If you are eligible to donate again while this program is ongoing, your blood sample from that future donation will be tested.

Is the COVID-19 antibody test the same as the coronavirus diagnostic test? No. This is not a test that tells a person whether or not they have a current COVID-19 infection. The antibody test determines whether the blood contains antibodies to the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, which causes COVID-19. The test does not check for the presence of an active COVID-19 infection.

Is having COVID-19 antibodies something I should be concerned about? Having COVID-19 antibodies is not harmful to you, and not harmful if transfused to a patient. In fact, these antibodies may have special lifesaving potential. Studies have shown that transfusing the plasma from a person who has recovered from the coronavirus (COVID-19 convalescent plasma) into a patient still fighting the virus may help boost the patient's immune system and potentially assist in recovery. Visit LStream.org/covidplasma for more info.

If I test positive for COVID-19 antibodies, will my plasma be used to help a coronavirus patient? Not for this donation, although your plasma can be used to develop and refine tests for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies and to produce SARS-CoV-2 antibody-based medications. During a subsequent donation you may be able to donate what's known as "convalescent plasma," which contains antibodies to the disease that can be given directly to patients currently battling COVID-19 to help boost their ability to fight their illness. However, you must be pre-qualified to donate this product. Please go to LStream.org/covidplasma or call 909-386-6837.

I tested positive for COVID-19 antibodies and want to become a convalescent plasma donor. What should I do? Visit LStream.org/covidplasma to learn about becoming a convalescent plasma donor.

I usually earn points every time I donate, but I don't see any points for my most recent donation. What happened? There is a significant cost to offer this antibody testing to our donors. As a result, we have suspended the distribution of reward points.

Can I opt out of antibody testing? No. The COVID-19 antibody test is included in the full panel of tests LifeStream's laboratory performs on every donation. Their lab is not set up to offer a choice for donors to opt out of this antibody test.