

## Mount Sinai Health System Employee Antibody Testing Asymptomatic Employee Testing Information Sheet

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Employee Health Services (EHS) is offering Mount Sinai Health System employees who have not developed COVID-19 symptoms a blood test to assess if you have developed COVID-19 antibodies. Antibodies are proteins your body forms when it fights a COVID-19 infection. Testing for antibodies can show whether you had COVID-19 in the past, even if you had no symptoms. This test does not show whether you have current COVID-19 infection and it does not test for any other virus or pathogen.

**This testing process does not apply to you if:**

- You have already received a COVID-19 antibody test at a Mount Sinai testing site
- You have registered with EHS and you are already scheduled for a testing appointment
- You currently have or had COVID-19 symptoms in the last 14 days. Please contact EHS through this link ([https://is.gd/employee\\_covid\\_registry](https://is.gd/employee_covid_registry)) and a member of the EHS will to arrange for you to be tested.

Your taking this test is voluntary. You do not need to take this test in order for you to be at work and perform your work duties. Whether you take it or not, and what the result is, will not affect your work duties.

You will receive your test results through MyChart. If you do not already have a MyChart account, please log into <https://mychart.mountsinai.org/mychart/accesscheck.asp> to set it up. Your test result may be shared with the New York State Department of Health and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services if they ask for it. The results will also become part of your EHS record. Your test results will **not** be shared with your supervisor.

The antibody test that we offer is called the “COVID-19 ELISA IgG Antibody Test.” It has received emergency use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration. The test is designed to detect antibodies in a blood sample. The lab will first check your blood specimen for a type of antibody called IgG. If the test result is positive, the lab runs a second test on the same specimen to assess for the level of antibodies in your blood, called a titer.

The results of the first part of the test are typically available in 24-48 hours. All employees tested will receive a positive (pending confirmation) or negative result in MyChart. Only specimens that are pending confirmation for IgG antibodies are tested for titers. Those results are typically available in MyChart 2-3 days after the initial results. They will provide a numeric value with your titer. The “titer” listed indicates the strength of your antibody response. We do not yet know whether a high titer means you are more protected from reinfection.

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### What does it mean if I have a negative test result?

A negative test result means that the IgG antibody was not found in your blood sample. This does not mean you have not been exposed to COVID-19. A negative result may occur if you are tested early in your illness and your body has not had time to produce antibodies to the infection. At this time, we are not offering repeat antibody testing for employees who had no symptoms and who tested negative or were positive with low titers. If you later become symptomatic with COVID-19-like illness, please register with EHS by completing an EHS REDcap form and someone will contact you to arrange for a different test called nasopharyngeal swab or PCR testing, which tests for active COVID-19 illness.

### What does it mean if I have a positive test result?

If you have a positive test result, it is likely that you have previously had COVID-19 and that you have developed an antibody response to the virus. Unfortunately, we do not know how long the antibodies remain in your blood. So we cannot say whether or for how long you are immune. There is also the chance that a positive result could be wrong. This is called a “false positive” result. **At this time, we do not know if a positive antibody test means you cannot be infected with the virus again. But it likely reduces your risk of being sick again.**

If you have additional questions about your test results, please contact your primary care doctor.

No matter what your test results are, please continue to follow social distancing rules, wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and avoid touching your face.

If you test positive, you may be a candidate for the Mount Sinai plasma donation program. Plasma is the liquid part of the blood. Plasma with high levels of COVID-19 antibodies is being tried as a possible treatment for patients who are seriously ill with COVID-19. If you are interested in donating plasma, please contact the New York Blood Center at [nybloodcenter.org](http://nybloodcenter.org).

At this time, we are not offering repeat antibody testing for employees who had no symptoms and who tested negative or were positive with low titers. If in the future you become symptomatic with an illness like COVID-19, please contact EHS by completing an EHS REDcap form and a member of the EHS team will contact you to arrange for nasopharyngeal swab (PCR) testing, which tests for active infection.

This testing protocol is subject to change based on local, state, and federal health authority guidelines.