

## **FOR SOCIAL CARE STAFF**

### **Is it mandatory to have an antibody test?**

No, having an antibody test is voluntary

### **What is an antibody test?**

An antibody test can tell someone whether they have had the virus that causes Covid-19 in the past, by analysing a blood sample.

### **What do antibody test results mean?**

A positive antibody test demonstrates that someone has developed antibodies to the virus. The presence of antibodies signals that the body has staged an immune response to the virus. Covid-19 is a new disease, and our understanding of the body's immune response to it is limited. We do not know, for example, how long an antibody response lasts, nor whether having antibodies means you can't transmit the virus to others. Our understanding of the virus will grow as new scientific evidence and studies emerge.

An antibody test result can only tell an individual whether or not they have had the virus in the past. Antibody tests are also being used currently in surveillance studies, to understand what proportion of the population have already had the virus.

### **If you test positive for antibodies, can you ignore lockdown restrictions?**

**No.** There is no evidence yet to suggest that those who have been proven to have had the virus are immune. This is the position of the World Health Organisation. You should continue to comply with social distancing measures and government guidelines. All infection prevention and control measures must continue to be in place irrespective of the presence of antibodies.

### **How will I be informed of the result?**

Your GP practice will receive your results between 5 – 14 days after you have your test. You will either receive an SMS with your results or you practice may choose to offer you a telephone appointment to discuss these.

### **How will my information be used?**

The anonymised results across the 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.

### **Are there any risks to having the test?**

As it is a blood test, you might feel dizzy and/or faint during and after the test. You may also experience bruising at the site where the blood was taken. Serious complications such as an infection at the site where blood was taken and phlebitis (swelling of the vein) are possible but extremely unlikely.

**Consent**

- I confirm that I have read the above information; I understand that my participation is voluntary, and I consent for this procedure.
- I have had the opportunity to consider the information and can confirm that I understand the nature and purpose of this procedure, together with the benefits and risks.
- I have confirmed a positive test **will not mean at this point that I am immune and therefore I will continue to behave as if I might get or pass on the infection**
- I declare that the information I have given on this form is correct and complete
- I give consent for my GP practice to discuss my results with me

Please print clearly

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile number \_\_\_\_\_

Address:

Staff Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_