



Antibody Testing For Care Staff - 11th August 2020

The Government has recently announced antibody testing for care sector staff. The antibody test is now available for staff working in care homes, domiciliary care, personal assistants and all other adult social care staff.

Our understanding of the virus will grow as new scientific evidence and studies emerge. Participation in antibody testing will provide evidence for some of these studies.

The antibody test can tell someone whether it is likely that they have had coronavirus. Not all people will make an immune response, so some people will not have developed antibodies despite having had coronavirus infection.

There is no strong evidence yet to suggest that those who have had the virus develop long-lasting immunity which would prevent them from getting the virus again.

Therefore, the value of antibody tests is currently limited to answering the question of whether someone has had the virus or not, and providing data and a greater understanding on the spread of the virus.

Important: The presence of antibodies does not mean you have any protection against getting coronavirus.

Therefore, regardless of your test results, it is crucial you continue to practice social distancing and wear the appropriate PPE.

The coronavirus antibody test is a blood test so you will need to have your blood collected. Participation is totally voluntary – you do not have to have the test if you do not wish to.

We will be offering various clinics that you can attend to have the sample collected. We have worked to provide as many clinics across Lincolnshire as possible, to help care sector staff access testing locally.

In some instances nursing homes may have staff trained to undertake in-house blood collection. Where this is available your employer will inform you. You will still have the option to attend the clinics if you prefer.

We will issue instructions and supplies when your area is scheduled to participate – you do not need to book an appointment if you intend to have your blood taken at your place of work.

There will be a phased roll-out in order to ensure that demand does not exceed the laboratory capacity. This will run over eight weeks, starting from the 17th August 2020, which may be extended if required.

If you wish to book an appointment at one of the community clinics to have an antibody test please request an appointment by emailing nlg-tr.staffcovid19antibodytest@nhs.net and provide the information indicated below.

You will need to provide your name, DOB, either your NHS number or address, and brief details of your availability to attend – preferred days etc. Importantly please indicate the clinic you wish to attend (listed below)

Lincoln County Hospital

Boston Pilgrim Hospital

Louth County Hospital

John Coupland Hospital
(Gainsborough)

Bourne Health Clinic

Grace Swan Health Clinic (Spilsby)

Skegness Hospital

Johnson Hospital (Spalding)

Grantham



Please note – other locations may become available over the next 8 weeks – we will send these out as they go live.

We will provide you with information regarding the test that you **MUST** read before attending the appointment. You will need to sign a consent form when you attend to confirm that you have understood the limitations of the test and the requirement for you to continue wearing appropriate PPE.

Your results will be sent to you via email – this may take up to 5 days due to the anticipated high demand. We will not be sharing these results with your employer.

Thank you on behalf of the Lincolnshire Health and Care System.

