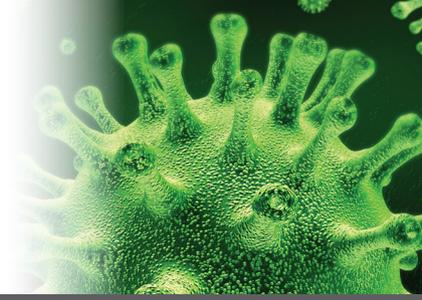


COVID-19 Serology Testing



Available Now

Dorevitch Pathology are pleased to announce that we are now offering COVID-19 Serology Testing.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If I think my patient has been exposed to SARS-CoV-2, what test should I request to check that they haven't been infected?

If your patient is symptomatic then a COVID-19 PCR test should be requested.

If your patient is asymptomatic then there is no recommendation for routine testing, but public health guidelines may suggest PCR testing as part of enhanced surveillance.

Serology testing should not be a routine test in diagnosing acute SARS-CoV-2 infection.

What antibodies are being tested by Dorevitch Pathology?

Dorevitch Pathology will be testing serum samples for SARS CoV-2 IgG antibodies when "SARS-CoV-2 serology" or "COVID serology" is requested.

If IgM testing is required please contact the Microbiology Department and we will refer your request to the Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory (VIDRL).

How sensitive and specific is the antibody testing by Dorevitch Pathology to detect a past COVID-19 infection in my patient?

Validation studies performed at Dorevitch Pathology on known COVID-19 positive patients showed >95% sensitivity and 100% specificity within 14 days after symptom onset.

Does the presence of IgG indicate current infection?

A positive IgG result cannot differentiate between current and past infection.

How long will it take to receive the result of my patient's serology test?

The serology result should be available within 24-48 hours, however, samples that are not negative by serological testing will be referred to the Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory - VIDRL for confirmatory testing. Dorevitch Pathology will send you an interim report informing you that the results was not negative and has been sent to VIDRL for further testing. We will send you a final report when we have the report from VIDRL.

How long does it take for an infected person to make antibodies to SARS-CoV-2?

Based on current understanding, SARS-CoV-2 IgG antibodies will develop in >90% of individuals 10-14 days after onset of symptoms. Approximately 5-10% of individuals may not develop antibodies specific to SARS CoV-2.

How long do antibodies stay positive in people who have been infected with SARS-CoV-2?

The research in this area is still quite limited, with relatively small numbers of patients having been tested by PCR and serial serology. The limited data that is available suggests that antibodies decline in 2-3 months in up to 40% of patients.

Does detection of a SARS-CoV-2 antibody mean my patient is immune to a reinfection with SAR-CoV-2?

The research in this area is very limited and at this point in time, it is unknown whether a serum antibody that is detected protects the individual against being reinfected with SARS-CoV-2.

>>> CONTINUED OVERLEAF

COVID-19 Serology Testing



>>> CONTINUED FROM OVERLEAF

What happens to my patient's sample when an antibody is detected?

If SARS-CoV-2 IgG is detected in your patient's serum by the antibody testing at Dorevitch Pathology, the sample will be referred to the Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory VIDRL.

Positive results will be notified to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Do I need to call my local Public Health Unit to request serology testing on my patient?

No, you can request serology testing on your patient without contacting the Department of Health and Human Services.

Do I need to send my patient to a respiratory collection centre for COVID-19 serology testing?

If you are requesting serology for a retrospective diagnosis and your patient is currently well, then they can attend any Dorevitch Pathology collection centre. Please state on the request form "Serology for Past exposure"

If acute infection is suspected then COVID serology is not the test of choice.

Please note: Drive-through clinics are unable to collect blood samples.

Is my patient still infectious if serology testing detects the presence of IgM only and not IgG?

The timing of antibody development will not be known from an isolated test, nor is antibody testing a test for the communicability of an infection.

A seroconversion to IgG in an antibody test (the IgG is not detected on the first sample, to having an IgG detected on the convalescent sample) is consistent with a recent infection.

An IgM detected in the absence of detectable IgG could indicate an early infection or be a false-positive. A follow up specimen to demonstrate seroconversion to IgG is required to confirm an infection with SARS-CoV-2.

HOW TO ORDER

Request "SARS-CoV-2 serology" or "COVID serology" on a pathology request form.

Indicate "Serology for Past exposure" if requesting serology to determine past exposure.

TURNAROUND TIME

Testing will be performed daily with results normally available within 24-48hrs.

COST

Bulk Billed subject to Medicare guidelines and criteria.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact your Medical Liaison Officer.