Trusted PPE

COVID TESTING

FAQ's

What is the difference between an antibody test and an antigen test?

It's a common question. The key difference is that an antigen test seeks to find antigens that have stimulated an immune response to a current infection. Antigens can take many forms and there are certain known antigens for the COVID-19 infection which the test seeks to identify. An **antigen test** often utilises a **swab of the throat/nose**.

Crucially, an **antigen test** reveals if a person is **currently infected with a pathogen** such as the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Once the infection has gone, the antigen disappears.

The **antibody test** uses a **small collection of blood** to identify whether there are antibodies present, giving an indication as to whether the person may have **already had the virus (IgG result)**. The Covguard COVID-19 antibody test can also **detect a current infection (IgM result)** using the antibodies present in the blood.

It should be noted that it can take the body a few weeks to produce antibodies after an antigen has caused an infection. **There is also no current evidence to support that having COVID-19 antibodies equates to having immunity from catching the virus.**

Should you require any further information, you can *visit this webpage*.

What does sensitivity and specificity mean?

The two terms relate to the number of genuinely positive or negative results that produce the correct test result.

The **sensitivity** can also be called the True Positive Rate (TPR). This is the proportion of samples that are **genuinely positive** that give a **positive test result**. The higher the sensitivity percentage, the greater the sensitivity of the test. Tests with a low sensitivity rate produce a higher number of false negatives.

The **specificity**, often referred to as the True Negative Rate (TNR) measures the negative test results. The proportion, or percentage, of the specificity rating relates to the number of samples that are **genuinely negative** and result in a **negative test reading**. Tests with a low specificity rate produce a higher number of false positives.

Tests with a sensitivity and specificity around 90% are generally considered good.

Should you require any further information, you can *visit this webpage*.

trustedppe.co.uk