

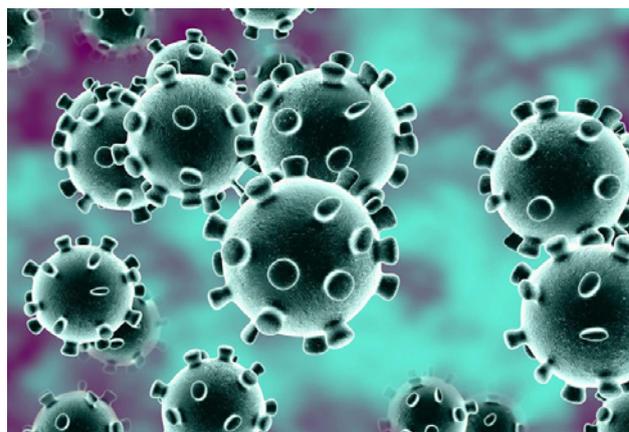


Coronavirus Information - Testing at Palace Gate Practice

Dear Palace Gate Practice Patient

Background

The majority of people with COVID-19 have uncomplicated or mild illness (81%), with non-specific symptoms such as fever, fatigue, cough (with or without sputum production), anorexia, malaise, muscle pain, sore throat, dyspnoea, nasal congestion, or headache. Rarely, patients may also present with diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting. Loss of taste and smell has been reported early in the infection. A relatively small proportion of people, particularly but by no means exclusively in those aged >70 years, will develop severe illness requiring oxygen therapy (14%) and approximately 5% will require intensive care unit treatment. Time from the onset of the infection to hospitalisation can be up to ~13 days. Of those critically ill, most will require mechanical ventilation. The most common diagnosis in severe COVID-19 patients is severe pneumonia; this can progress to acute respiratory distress syndrome, and life-threatening multi-organ dysfunction and death. Mortality has been estimated at between 1 and 2% of those infected, the higher figure in men.



Tests

A) Covid-19 (SARS-CoV-2) testing by PCR assay. This is a Nasal/Throat swab. This detects whether someone currently has the Covid-19 infection though it is possible to have an infection without any symptoms. The swab should be taken from symptomatic patients between 1-5 days onset of symptoms. Infectivity is now recognized to occur before the onset of symptoms. As with all viral PCR assays, patients with very low viral loads are less likely to be detected. 'Not detected' results do not preclude infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus and should not be the sole basis of a patient treatment/management or public health decision. Where there is a strong clinical suspicion of an early COVID-19 infection repeat sampling should be considered 24-48 hours later. This is an approved test by Public Health England

Reported Accuracy of Test (The Doctors Laboratory)

Covid-19 (SARS-CoV-2) PCR assay Minimum Sensitivity of 98% Specificity 100%

Limitations of test

- Patients with very low viral loads are less likely to be detected including at the very onset of an infection
- " Not detected " results do not preclude infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

(If Covid-19 clinically suspected, we may advise repeat testing 24-48 hrs later)

- How well the swab is taken. (How to take the swab information sheet is included in the test kit)

Summary of when to use this test:

If you have symptoms.

Please note that if you have symptoms you must follow the Governments and PHE guidance regarding self isolation <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19>

Results:

Detected or not detected.

Results must be interpreted in conjunction with your history, symptoms and signs. This is why we will follow up your test with a Telephone/ Video consultation with one of our doctors.

B) Covid-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Antibody test. (Abbott) This is a blood test which is sent to a laboratory. This test can tell whether a patient has been previously infected. Most patients who recover from the Coronavirus have been found to produce antibodies. When there is an infection in the body, our immune system reacts to produce specific antibodies to fight and kill off the infection. We currently don't know whether the presence of antibodies will be protective either fully or partially from getting future infection or how long the protective immunity will last for. The test should be taken at least 14 days after onset of symptoms and we are advising 21-28 days after onset of symptoms.

Reported Accuracy of Test (TDL)

Abbott SARS-CoV-2 IgG Antibody 97.5% Sensitivity 100% Specificity

Limitations of test

- If test is taken too early, antibody levels may be too low to detect. IgG antibodies are detectable 14-21 days after infection. We would advise doing this test from 21-28 days after onset of symptoms/ or after a positive PCR swab (Test A).
- We do not currently know whether the presence of antibodies gives you protection and for how long any such protection will last.
- We do not know what percentage of people who have contracted the Covid-19 infection will produce antibodies.
- No tests are 100% accurate. Evaluation of these types of tests are being carried out. The Doctors Laboratory has been an effective and reliable laboratory service to our practice for over 20 years. The laboratory is UKAS and PHE accredited. The test is CE marked and the laboratory Abbott's immunoassay has been approved.

Summary of test:

To be used IF you have had previous symptoms of a likely Covid-19 infection and are in recovery or have recovered from the infection or when you have had a previous positive swab PCR test. The presence of antibodies is likely to indicate some level of immunity but further international data is needed to know the degree of such immunity and how long it will last.

Results:

COV-2 IgG < 1.4 Not Detected (Negative)

Cov-2 IgG >= 1.4 Detected (Positive)

Interpretation of this test result must be made with the history and previous clinical symptoms. That is why we follow up your blood test and test result with a Telephone/ Video consultation with one of our doctors.

Costs

We are offering these tests at base cost as we do not intend to or think it is appropriate to make any profit on such testing. We are only offering these tests as a package to include a Telephone consultation/ Video consultation with one of our doctors in order to go through your history, symptoms, previous test results and the implications and limitations of your results.

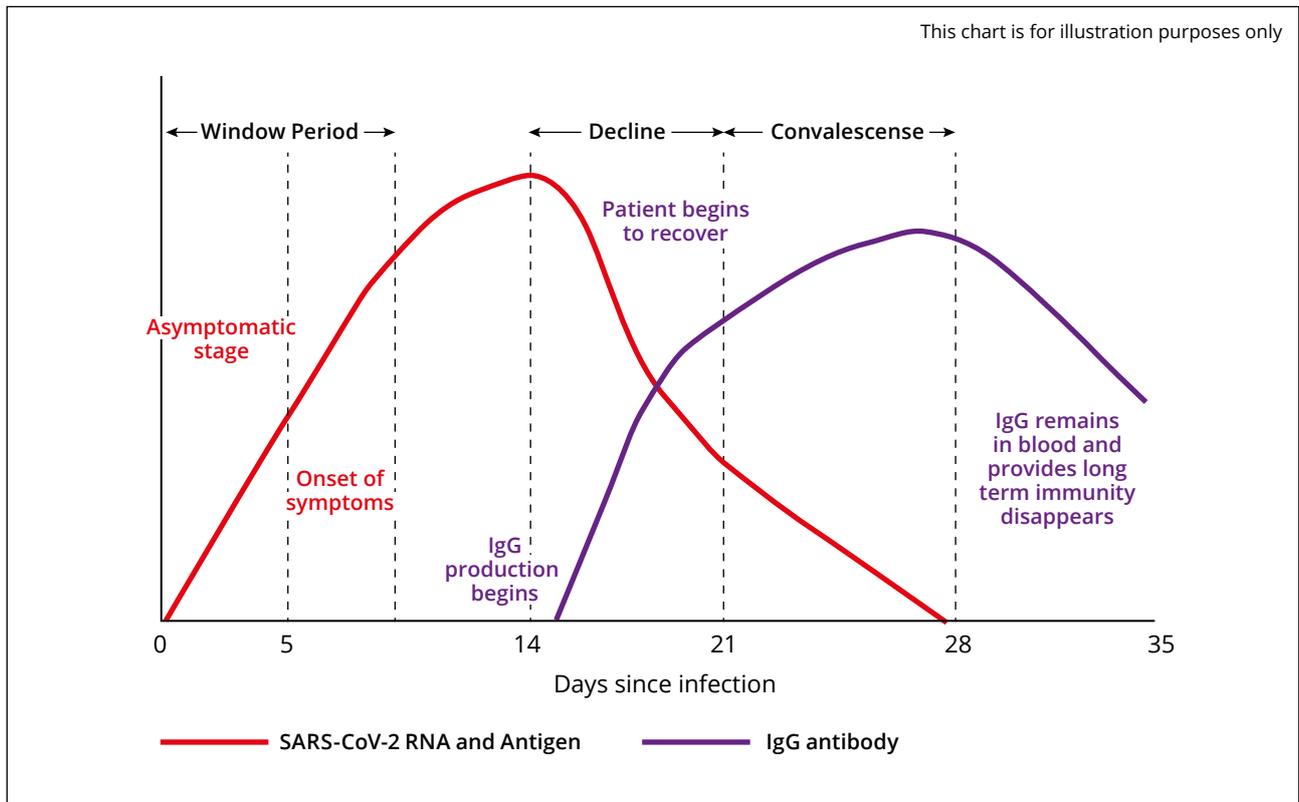
PCR Swab test: £150 (Test cost £77 plus follow up Tel/Video consultation £73)

Antibody test: £150 (Test cost / phlebotomy appointment £75 plus follow up Tel/video consultation £75)

These tests are provided by 'The Doctors Laboratory' with whom we use as our principal laboratory for the majority of our blood tests and pathology. The use of these tests does not detract in any way from the Government's stock of available testing kits.



The incubation of the Covid-19 virus ranges from 1-14 days with the majority of the cases manifesting symptoms at 3-5 days. The graphs below give AN INDICATION only of what happens to IgG/ antibody production.



We will continue to keep you updated.

Best wishes from all of The Palace Gate Practice Team.

