

Princeton Sports and Family Medicine Providers now have the ability to obtain coronavirus antibody testing for our patients. This test is being done in conjunction with Quest labs and Labcorp and can now be offered to all patients.

It is important to understand what antibody testing means. This is an antibody test that is looking for past exposure to Coronavirus-- this is NOT a test to determine if someone is currently infected with Coronavirus.

- This test is looking for antibodies our immune system makes in response to prior exposure. There are two types of antibodies that our body makes to coronavirus (or other viruses) after exposure.
- This test looks for the specific antibody called IgG, the type that takes several weeks to develop. If you test negative, it does NOT necessarily mean that you were not exposed at some point. It just means that this test is not currently detecting the antibodies in your system.
- If you test positive, it likely means that you were exposed and mounted an immune response over the last several weeks. There is the possibility that the test could be a false positive, which can happen when antibodies are made to other Coronaviruses that are similar.
- **A positive test does not mean you are immune.** We are learning more about this virus each week, and while we are hopeful that these antibodies will help protect against future infection, medical science has not established this connection. We understand that despite these limitations, many patients are anxious to be tested for antibodies.

Here is the process for being tested:

- 1) You must be symptom-free for a minimum of 2 weeks. This is to increase the accuracy of the test. This means no fever, no cough, no shortness of breath, no body aches, no other flu like symptoms for a minimum of 2 weeks.
- 2) If you meet the criteria, call our office to set up a telehealth appointment with one of our physicians. Testing cannot be done without a telehealth appointment to ensure the appropriateness and timing of the testing.
- 3) If the physician determines testing should occur, they will notify a member of our staff. The staff member will call you and direct you to set up an appointment for a blood draw at Quest or Labcorp.
- 4) The time needed to generate a result is variable as a result of demand. Our office will contact you when results are reported.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- 1) Does this test for active Coronavirus infection?
Answer: No. This is an antibody test to see if you were exposed in the past and currently have antibodies against Coronavirus.
- 2) I tested positive on the antibody test. Does that mean I am immune from getting it again?

Answer: Not necessarily. We are learning more about the virus as time goes on and cannot say for sure that you are immune. It just means you have antibodies.

3) I tested negative on the antibody test, but I think I had Coronavirus a month ago. How can that be?

Answer: There are false negatives with the testing, and it is still possible you had the virus.

Please contact our office to schedule an appointment for telehealth and antibody testing if this is something you are interested in.

The Providers of Princeton Sports and Family Medicine