

# COVID-19 Antibody Testing for Blood Donors

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **DO I HAVE TO DONATE BLOOD TO RECEIVE THE TEST?**

Yes. The test requires a blood sample, which is taken during the blood donation process. Results will be available to those with a successful donation.

### **HOW AND WHEN WILL I RECEIVE TEST RESULTS?**

Results will be sent to you within seven days of your donation.

### **WHAT IS THE COVID-19 ANTIBODY TEST?**

LifeSouth performs a test authorized by the FDA, which detects whether someone has developed antibodies to COVID-19. The antibody test is not a diagnostic test and will not indicate whether you currently have COVID-19.

### **WHAT ARE ANTIBODIES?**

Antibodies are proteins that are made in response to foreign substances, or antigens, in your body. Once formed, these antibodies can recognize the foreign substance and help the immune response that fights off diseases.

### **WHAT DOES A POSITIVE OR REACTIVE TEST RESULT MEAN?**

A positive or reactive result means that antibodies to COVID-19 have been detected in your blood and you have likely been exposed to the virus. This result means that you could qualify to be a convalescent plasma donor under the current FDA guidelines.

### **WHAT DOES A NEGATIVE OR NON-REACTIVE TEST RESULT MEAN?**

A negative or non-reactive result means that you either don't have antibodies to COVID-19, or their levels are too low to detect by this test. A negative result does not mean you do not currently have, or have not had, COVID-19. Many people who have had COVID-19 may not form long-lasting antibodies.

### **WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THESE RESULTS?**

The antibody test is not designed to be a diagnostic test. You may wish to share this information with your physician if you have questions about the results and their significance to your personal health. These results are not intended to offer proof of immunity against COVID-19 infection.

### **WHAT IS CONVALESCENT PLASMA?**

Convalescent plasma is a term for plasma taken from a donor who has recovered from a disease. Plasma is the liquid portion of blood where antibodies reside. Some research suggests that transfusing plasma with preformed antibodies against COVID-19 may help speed recovery and prevent mortality in those critically ill with COVID-19.

### **I JUST DONATED. CAN I STILL RECEIVE THE ANTIBODY TEST?**

No, but we will continue to conduct the test, so you will be tested at your next donation.

### **WHICH TEST IS USED?**

LifeSouth performs the Ortho Clinical Diagnostics VITROS Immunodiagnostic Products Anti-SARS-CoV-2 test.