

Lakeland Laboratory

May 13, 2020

Spectrum Health COVID-19 Serology Testing

EFFECTIVE May 18th, 2020 **COVID-19 serology testing available**

- Serology testing measures the body's immune response to COVID-19 infection in the form of antibody production against the SARS-CoV-2 virus.
- There is a single COVID-19 serology order available in Epic, however, the Spectrum Health laboratory performs two versions of antibody testing to increase specificity and avoid reporting false positive results. An initial screen will be used to measure total antibody (IgA, IgM, and IgG), and positives will be confirmed by a second method that is specific to IgG.
- Specificity is critical when the expected prevalence in a community is low. This serology testing is not expected to cross-react with other circulating coronaviruses that cause the common cold.
- A positive IgG result indicates previous infection with COVID-19 but does not indicate immunity or protection against future infection.
- This test should not be used to detect acute COVID-19 disease. Symptomatic patients suspected to have acute COVID-19 infection should be tested using a molecular assay.
- Whether positive or negative for the presence of COVID-19 antibodies, serology testing results do not support easing of behaviors such as social distancing, wearing masks, or hand hygiene.

TESTING RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Serology testing is recommended only for individuals at least 10-14 days either post-symptom onset or following an exposure to individuals with confirmed COVID-19 infection. Patients tested prior to this time may be falsely negative for IgG antibodies.
- Serology testing may be used to screen patients as donors of convalescent plasma for use as a therapeutic.

TEST INFORMATION:

TEST NAME	COVID-19 IgG Antibody	
SPECIMEN	SERUM (gold top tube)	
TRANSPORT CONDITIONS	Refrigerated	
STABILITY	Ambient: 8 hours Refrigerated: 3 days	
EXPECTED TURNAROUND	24 hours	
TEST ORDER CODE	Sunquest: COR2G	EPIC: LAB3314

For additional information or questions please contact Lakeland Laboratory Client Services:

- Call (269) 983-8311
- 1-800-513-9193

Or visit the Lakeland laboratory website: www.lakelandhealth.org/lab then select laboratory test menu.