Serology Testing Results Information Sheet

The purpose of this information sheet is to explain what your antibody test result means and to advise on the next steps if you have consented to be part of the Co-STARS research study.

What does my result mean?

Antibody (IgG) Positive:

- This result is consistent with exposure to SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19). This may indicate past infection but cannot be used to estimate the timing of infection.

Antibody (IgG) Equivocal:

- Antibody responses may not develop until 14-21 days after infection and may not be positive in all people. An equivocal result indicates an indeterminate response at the threshold of being either positive or negative. This may be due to a non-specific response with cross reacting antibodies. The test will be repeated to help clarify whether it is becoming truly negative or positive but may remain equivocal

Antibody (IgG) Negative:

- This indicates no current serological response to SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19). You may still be at risk of infection. Please note, however, that antibody responses may not develop until 14-21 days after infection and may not be positive in all people.

If I am antibody positive/ equivocal does this result mean that I am immune to SARS-CoV-2?

This is a research-based test. Therefore, at this stage, it is unclear whether having antibodies is protective against future re-infection. Everyone should still follow government guidelines on the use of personal protective equipment, self-isolation and/or testing for SARS-CoV-2.

Can I find out the exact level (titre) of my antibodies?

Unfortunately, we are not able to let you know your exact level (titre) of antibodies. We are still learning how to interpret the results in terms of the level of protection the antibodies provide.

What if I develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19?

Please continue to follow GOSH guidelines on staff testing and infection control measures:
http://goshweb.pangosh.nhs.uk/news_and_events/Pages/COVID-19-staff-screening.aspx
We advise that you do this irrespective of antibody status and even if you have had any previous diagnostic tests and/or symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

What happens next if I consented to be part of Co-STARS?

- If your first result was **positive or equivocal**, you qualify for **the close follow up arm of the study**. This involves a repeat blood test at our clinic and a short online questionnaire once a month for the next 6 months (and then 6-monthly).
- If your first test was **negative**, you will be followed up **every 6 months** with a repeat blood test at our clinic and a short online questionnaire.

We will contact you when it is time to book in again for a follow up appointment. You will **not** be required to go through the consenting process again.

What does it mean if my antibody status changes over the course of the study?

It is possible that your antibody status will change over time – e.g. you might test positive for several months, and then switch to testing negative. One of the aims of the study is to learn about how long antibodies last and to what extent they protect against COVID-19. If you tested positive initially, but now test negative, you will switch onto the 6-monthly follow up arm.

What if I am unable to attend the follow up appointment?

We will contact you when it is time to book in. You will be able to choose an appointment from the slots available to find a time that suits you.

What if I need to withdraw from the study?

When you receive the link to book in for a follow up appointment, you can click on the link and complete the first question to formally withdraw from the study.

What if I have more questions?

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your result, please email covid.study@gosh.nhs.uk
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Many thanks!

The Co-STARS team