



COVID-19 ANTIBODY TESTING

WHAT IS AN ANTIBODY? WHY DO I WANT ANTIBODIES?

Antibodies are what helps your body fight off infections, including COVID-19. They are specific proteins that your body makes to help protect you from diseases you are exposed to. When exposed, your immune system makes a protein that remembers that disease and how to fight it. Your body makes antibodies from being exposed to virus or from vaccination.

How Does the Test Work?

- A small amount of blood from a finger stick is used to get these test results. The results are available in 10 minutes

Where Can I get the Antibody Test?

- Bremo Pharmacy provides these tests for only \$50!
- Call 804-288-8361 to schedule an appointment!

What do the Different Antibodies Mean?

IgM

Suggestive of an active or recent COVID-19 infection. This antibody is present right after the first exposure to COVID-19 and rapidly decreases within the following weeks. IgM does not provide long term protection.

IgG

Suggestive of long term protection from COVID-19. This antibody increases over time as IgM decreases. IgG will help decrease the risk of reinfection. Vaccines (especially booster doses) provide higher levels of IgG.

Strengths of Antibody Tests

- This test will inform you if you have antibodies to COVID-19. You can develop antibodies from being exposed to an individual with COVID-19 or from a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Antibodies help decrease your risk of COVID-19 infection or reinfection.
- The test looks for both short term immunity (IgM) and long term immunity (IgG)

Weaknesses of Antibody Tests

- The test does not know if the antibodies are from vaccination or a COVID-19 exposure.
- This test does not say how many antibodies you have.
- This test does not diagnose an active COVID-19 infection.
- We do not know how long IgG will last from a COVID infection or vaccination.

When Should You Get an Antibody Test?

- If you have been previously diagnosed with COVID-19 and want to know if you still have antibodies
- If you have not been previously diagnosed with COVID-19 and want to know if you were exposed in the past

When Should You NOT Get an Antibody Test?

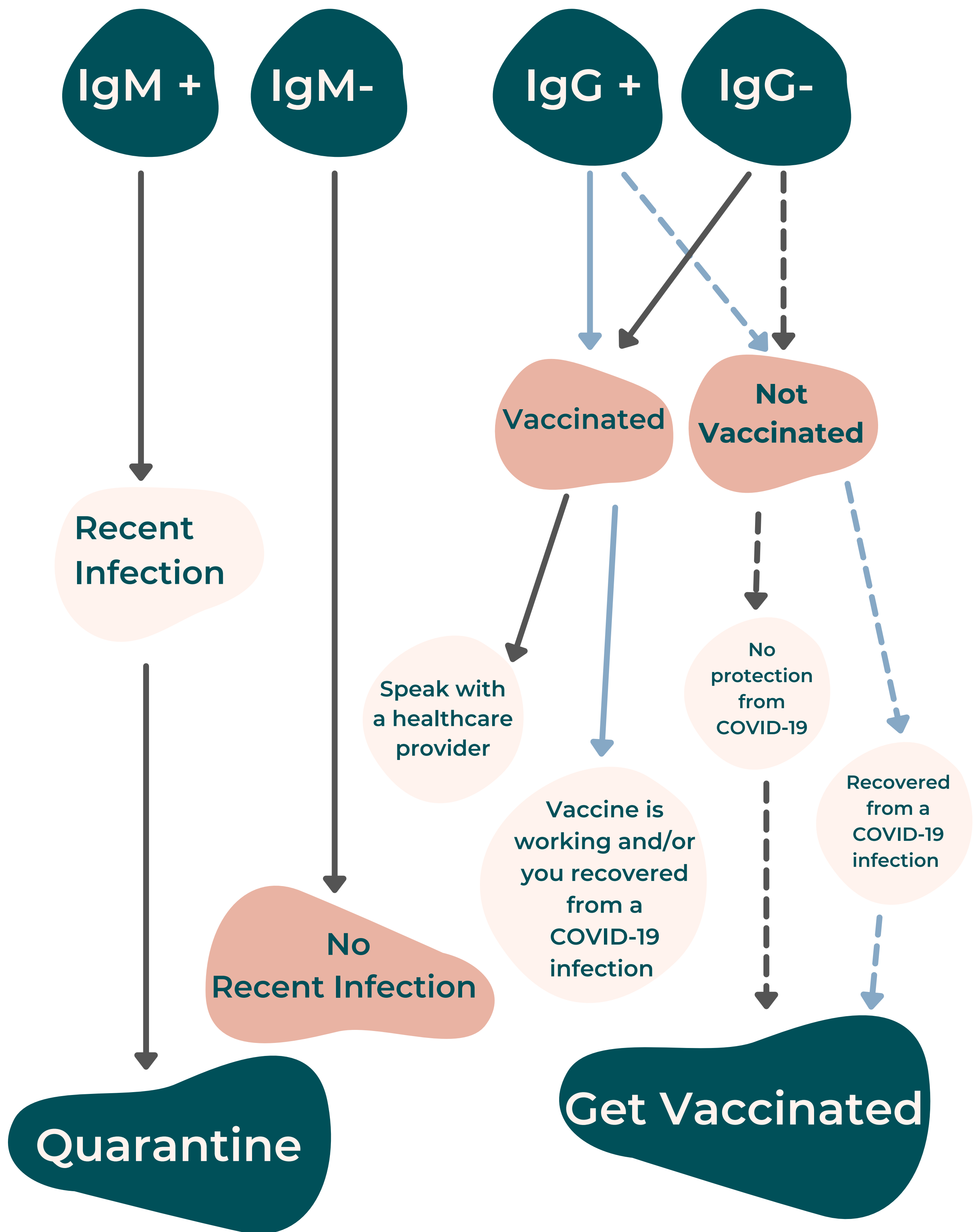
- If you think you have an active COVID-19 infection
- If you are sick (fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose)
- If you have been exposed to or diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 2 weeks

The accuracy of the antibody test is not perfect. A false negative or false positive is possible with almost all lab tests.

- False negative: test states you have no antibodies when you really do have antibodies
 - Can occur if there was not enough time between virus exposure (from an individual or vaccine) and the test
- False positive: test states you do have antibodies when you actually have no antibodies
 - Can occur if the test detects other coronaviruses (aside from COVID-19)
 - Coronaviruses have been around since before COVID-19 and are a cause of the common cold

**HOW WELL
DO THESE
TESTS
WORK?**

HOW DO I INTERPRET MY ANTIBODY TEST RESULTS?



Presence of IgG antibodies DOES NOT replace the need for vaccination against COVID-19