



**JULY 20, 2020  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**9HEALTH OFFERS COVID-19 ANTIBODY TESTING & PREVENTIVE HEALTH SCREENINGS**

**Denver, Colo. — July 20, 2020** — For more than 40 years, 9NEWS and 9Health have maintained a partnership focused on keeping Colorado healthy through preventive care and health awareness. Through a continued collaboration with Quest Diagnostics, 9Health will offer COVID-19 antibody testing\*\*\* and preventive health screenings at Quest Diagnostics Patient Service Centers throughout Colorado.

9Health is dedicated to helping local Coloradans understand their overall risk for COVID-19, with the help of COVID-19 antibody testing and preventive health screenings. This is an opportunity for Coloradans to not only understand their risk, but to learn how they can protect loved ones and their community.

Antibody testing uses blood serum specimens and is sometimes referred to as serology testing. It can aid in detecting if an individual has been previously infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, although we do not yet know whether the development of antibodies provides protection from re-infection, or how long such protection lasts, COVID-19 antibody testing may indicate whether "the person has been exposed to the virus and developed antibodies against it, which may mean that person has at least some immunity to the coronavirus."

Find out if you have developed COVID-19 antibodies, how to prevent spreading COVID-19, and what your personal risk factors are for contracting the disease in the future. This quick and easy blood collection takes only 15 minutes and you will receive results in your 9Health personalized online results dashboard within 2 weeks. To receive the COVID-19 antibody test and learn about our special health fair pricing, visit [www.9healthfair.org](http://www.9healthfair.org) and register online.\*

"With the help of our long-time partner Quest Diagnostics, we are able to help Coloradoans find the answers they need, in relation to COVID-19 antibody testing and important preventive health screenings." said Gary Drews, 9Health President and CEO. "During this health pandemic, we will continue to provide resources to our communities, to help keep all Coloradans healthy."

While being tested for the COVID-19 antibodies at Quest Diagnostics Patient Service Centers, you can use your blood sample for other preventive health screenings, to get a full health profile.

**Available 9Health Health Screenings at a Quest PSC**

COVID-19 Antibody	The presences of antibodies in your blood indicates that your body has developed COVID-19 antibodies	
BLOOD TYPE	Early research shows that certain blood types have been associated with higher risk of severe COVID-19	
BLOOD CHEMISTRY	Checks your major systems which can put you at increased risk of complications from COVID-19 - including cholesterol, kidney and liver	
BLOOD COUNT	Tells you how many infection-fighting white blood cells you have and the oxygen-carrying capacity of your blood.	
A1C - DIABETES	This disease may increase the risk for COVID-19.	
VITAMIN B 12	An important vitamin for healthy immune function. Your immune function is a strong determinant of your risk of and complications from COVID-19.	

VITAMIN D	An important vitamin for healthy immune function. Your immune function is a strong determinant of your risk of and complications from COVID-19.	
HsCRP	The high-sensitivity C-reactive protein test gives a baseline measure of inflammation. HsCRP increases dramatically in severe cases of COVID-19.	

**Other screening options for preventive health are available:**

- **NEW! Baseline Health** – Screenings Included: Blood Chemistry & Hemoglobin A1c (Diabetes)
- **NEW! Essential Health**– Screenings Included: Blood Chemistry, Hemoglobin A1c (Diabetes) & Vitamin D.
- **Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA)** - Measures a protein produced by the prostate gland. After discussion with your healthcare provider, this screening may be recommended for individuals age 69 or younger, or those with a family history of prostate cancer.
- **Testosterone (male)** - Testosterone levels fluctuate throughout the day. Levels are best represented when the screening is performed in the morning. Low testosterone levels in males can affect energy levels, mood and cognitive function, sexual desire, bone and muscle mass, and fat distribution. Low testosterone levels can be caused by many conditions. If out-of-range, seek further evaluation to screen for other underlying issues such as sleep apnea, depression, opiate and other drug use, liver disease, diabetes, thyroid disorders, and others.

Fasting is not required (optional) for blood screenings. To best prepare for a blood draw, drink plenty of water and continue to take prescription medications. Check with your health care provider for specific recommendations.

**ABOUT 9HEALTH**

9Health, a 501c-3 community non-profit, has impacted over 2 million people in its 40-year history with health and wellness tools such as preventive health screenings, evidence-based, objective health education and eTools, as well as resources for every day in your health journey. Headquartered in Denver, Colorado, its mission is to raise health awareness and provide people with the tools they need to take responsibility for their health. The largest volunteer-driven, nonprofit effort in the nation holds unique endorsements from the Colorado Medical Society, the Colorado Nurses Association, and the Colorado Hospital Association.

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\*Individuals can have COVID-19 testing fully paid by their health plan or the government, with no out of pocket cost, when billed to the health plan or the government. If you are looking for that No-Cost option, contact your health care provider.

\*\*This FDA authorized blood test checks for a type of antibody called immunoglobulin G (IgG) that is the result of past or recent exposure to COVID-19, also known as the novel coronavirus (this is not a test for an active infection). The human body produces IgG antibodies as part of the immune response to the virus. It usually takes around 10 days to start producing enough antibodies to be detected in the blood. However, in some people it may take several weeks.

Test results may help identify if you were previously exposed to the virus and, if exposed, can check whether or not your body has produced antibodies. Currently, the FDA supports antibody testing with the following important points:

- Antibody tests can play a critical role in the fight against COVID-19
- Testing can help identify who may have been exposed to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes the COVID-19 infection, and potentially developed an immune response
- Right now, it is unclear whether these individuals may be less susceptible to infection, but in the future, broad use of antibody tests and clinical follow-up will provide more information on this point

Multiple sources, including the CDC and healthcare experts, recommend you discuss your test results and whether to return to work with your healthcare provider and employer.

- If you were never diagnosed with COVID-19, this test can help determine if you may have been previously exposed to the virus.
- If you were diagnosed with COVID-19, this test can check whether or not your body has produced antibodies.

This test has been authorized by the FDA under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). This means that while Quest Diagnostics has validated the test and has the data to believe the test and the collection kit are accurate, this test has not been FDA cleared or approved; This test has been authorized by FDA under an EUA for use by authorized laboratories; this test has been authorized only for the detection of IgG Antibodies against SARS-CoV-2, not for any other viruses or pathogens; and, this test is only authorized for the duration of the declaration that circumstances exist justifying the authorization of emergency use on in vitro diagnostics for detection and/or diagnosis of COVID-19 under Section 564(B)(1) of the Act, 21 U.S.C. § 360BBB-3(B)(1), unless the authorization is terminated or revoked sooner.

Additional studies need to be conducted for this test and others like it be FDA cleared or approved.

Note: This test can sometimes detect antibodies from other coronaviruses, which can cause a false positive result if you have been previously diagnosed with or exposed to other types of coronaviruses. Additionally, if you test too soon, your body may not have produced enough IgG antibodies to be detected by the test yet, which can lead to a false negative result.