



*Healthcare That Revolves Around You.®*

## **COVID-19 ANTIBODY TESTING**

At CareMount Medical we want to remind all of our patients that we are here for your healthcare needs during the Covid-19 crisis both in person, and via telehealth. Please visit us on the web at [www.CareMountMedical.com](http://www.CareMountMedical.com) for the latest updates, virtual visits, scheduling appointments and patient portal access and sign up.

### **Today you are here to receive a COVID-19 Antibody Test**

#### **Here are some critical facts about antibody testing:**

- Antibody testing indicates if your body has responded to the SARS CoV-2 COVID -19 virus
- **Testing Negative (Non-Reactive) does not mean you definitely don't have an infection with the virus right now**
  - Not everyone develops antibodies
  - It may be too soon for you to develop antibodies
- **Testing Positive (Reactive) does not mean you are immune to COVID-19 now or in the future**
- **Testing Positive does not allow you to get out of isolation/quarantine**
- **Testing Positive does not allow you to go back to work**
- **Testing Positive does not allow you to stop wearing a mask in public—you must continue social distancing, hand washing, and good hygiene**
- Testing Positive may mean that you are a candidate to donate plasma

#### **Are there different kinds of antibody testing?**

Yes, there are kits on the market that say you can give a drop of blood from your finger and get results in 5 minutes. Unfortunately, most of these are unreliable, and not approved by FDA. CareMount does testing on a proven analyzer that has FDA Emergency Use Authorization.

#### **Do you test for different kinds of antibodies?**

Yes, you may have heard that there are 2 kinds of COVID antibodies: IgM (M) and IgG (G). Your body makes the M early (roughly 5 days to 2 weeks) and the G later (2-6 weeks). First, we do a Total Antibody. That includes both M and G. If that is positive (called Reactive), we then perform a test for G.

#### **What does it mean to be Total Antibody Positive, versus IgG (G) positive?**

If you are total antibody positive and G antibody positive, you were likely infected at least 2 weeks ago. If you are total antibody positive, and G antibody negative, this may mean you've had a recent infection. If you have had a recent infection, you could still be contagious. Your provider will ask you to have a RNA test (possibly 2) to see if the virus is still active in your body.

#### **How long does it take for results?**

Antibody testing results are generally returned within two weeks and will be reported to you.

#### **Does a Negative test mean that I am not infected?**

Most likely you do not have COVID-19, but a negative antibody test could mean you have an early infection. If you test negative it is possible that you have been exposed to COVID within the last 3 weeks and your body hasn't yet produced antibodies. If you are symptomatic, your provider will ask you to continue isolating and will perform a COVID RNA nasal swab test. If you are not having symptoms consistent with COVID but have recently been exposed, your provider may advise you to repeat the antibody test in 2-3 weeks.