

# COVID-19 and our communities

Saginaw County



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## ANTIBODY TESTING

is different than diagnostic testing for COVID-19



Antibodies can be found in the blood and in other tissues days or weeks after being infected with a virus. This can be useful to understand how illness affects the population as a whole, but it cannot be used to diagnose individuals.

### What we KNOW:

- Four types of antibody tests have been approved for use by the FDA.
- There are places in Michigan offering antibody testing, but there is no information about which test is being used, or if they may be using an unapproved test.
- An antibody test CANNOT help your doctor decide how to treat you or if it safe to return to work.



### What we DON'T KNOW:

- How good the current antibody tests are at detecting COVID-19 in individuals.
- If detection of antibodies means you have had COVID-19, or if it will detect other coronaviruses (like the common cold) that you may have had in the past.
- If detection of antibodies means you can still spread COVID-19.
- If detection of antibodies means you are immune to COVID-19.



Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to learn more about antibody testing for COVID-19 through a pilot project with medical professionals and first responders in Southeast Michigan. This project will be helpful in learning how we can use information from antibody testing to understand more about COVID-19.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, like cough, fever, and shortness of breath, you should contact your doctor and seek testing for COVID-19. Diagnostic testing for COVID-19 can ensure you get the right medical treatment, unlike antibody testing.

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