

# TESTS - COVID 19

## UNDERSTAND THE COVID-19

### What you need to know

#### 2 Types of test available

- In Quebec: **PCR Test** - Detection of the COVID-19 virus: **Used only by Quebec public health to identify the presence of the virus to confirm a positive or negative. At the moment, the government is running all the tests. At the moment no private laboratory can sell these tests** because it has to manage the material to collect the specimen and the reagents to perform the analyses. **THIS TEST DIRECTLY DETECTS VIRAL PARTICLES.**
- In Quebec: **Serological/Antibody** Testing - IgG Antibody Research: Currently 2 Laboratories (DiaSorin and Abbott) are licensed by Health Canada. In addition, serological tests can give false **results (positive or negative)** in a large proportion depending on the characteristics of the test and the prevalence of the disease. **A POSITIVE TEST ONLY MEANS THAT YOU HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE VIRUS AND HAVE DEVELOPED ANTIBODIES.**

### When to use the tests in the company

I want to screen people (symptomatic or asymptomatic) who have the disease before accepting them at work.

- Currently in Quebec, the only test that allows you to have this answer is the PCR Test. At the moment, it is not available in screening mode for companies.
- **DO NOT USE IGG/ANTIBODY SEROLOGY TESTS THINKING THAT WORKERS WHO ARE NEGATIVE DO NOT HAVE THE DISEASE AND THAT THOSE WHO ARE POSITIVE ARE NOT CONTAGIOUS.** The only way to ensure employee safety until the PCR test is available in screening mode is to still have a good medical assessment system in the form of questions combined with a temperature reading that takes into account the employee's health status over the last 30 days.

I have an employee with symptoms resembling COVID-19, what test should I use??

- In Quebec: The only test for this answer is the PCR Test. This test is available through public health only and through COVID-19 detection centres.

### Understanding the IgG/Antibody Serological Test

It does not mean that you are *contagious* or that you are *NOT contagious*.

- When a disease attacks our body, our defense system develops antibodies to fight the disease. It is therefore necessary to wait several days that our system has produced enough antibodies for them to be detectable by an IgG/antibody serological test.
- Moreover, having antibodies does not mean that it has finished fighting the disease, which is why we can be contagious. The only way to know if he has finished fighting is to do the test that will detect if there are any viral particles left (and even this test is difficult to interpret in many cases).

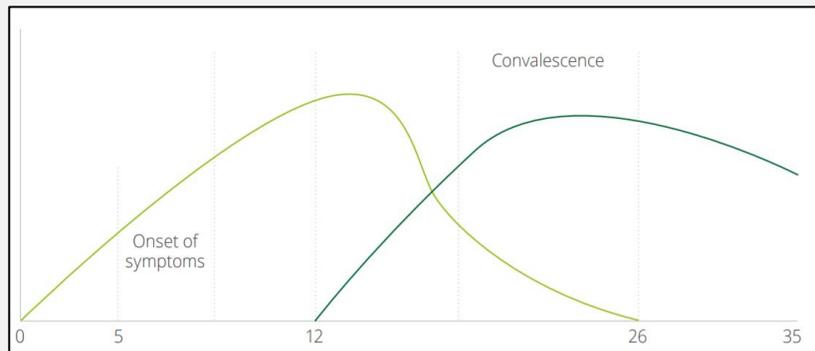
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### Test « link » DiaSorin laboratory

[https://www.diasorin.com/sites/default/files/allegati/m0870004366\\_a\\_liaisonr\\_sars-cov-2\\_lr.pdf](https://www.diasorin.com/sites/default/files/allegati/m0870004366_a_liaisonr_sars-cov-2_lr.pdf)

- When to take the test?
  - Approximately, the average onset of antibodies is between **9 and 14 days after the onset of symptoms**. It is therefore necessary to wait until after this period to carry out the test.



- What do you need to understand?
  - That test can be **negative even if you have COVID-19**. If you do the test less than 9 to 14 days from the time you developed symptoms.
  - That if the test is **positive it does not mean that you are no longer contagious**. After developing IgG antibodies you can have a viral load for several days, up to more than 20 days later.
  - That if the test is **positive it does not tell you that you are cured**, because it is not possible to know the departure date.
  - That if the test is **positive it does not necessarily give you long-term immunity**, because at the moment we do not have enough scientific data to say that the development of antibodies provides long-term immunity.
  - That if the test is positive **it does protect you from reinfection**, because at the moment we do not yet have enough scientific data to say that if you had the disease you will be protected and that you would not have it another time.

Note: In the event of discrepancy, DiaSorin's technical document prevails.

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