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## **SARS-CoV-2 Antibody Blood Test**

**Star Valley Health asks that you read all of the information below since you have made the decision to have this blood test without consulting your doctor.**

**Star Valley Health (SVH) understands that there are many companies and health care providers/institutions offering antibody testing for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19 illness). SVH feels obliged that you have this important information before proceeding. The information below applies to all current antibody testing for SARS-CoV-2 no matter the manufacturer of the test. SVH will be utilizing an FDA approved antibody test.**

**The information below helps explain some of the potential limitations to this test as well as some other important information. SVH wants to continue to be your partner in making wise decisions about your health.**

- 1) This antibody test was developed by studying only individuals who had symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal symptoms. This means that if you have **NOT** had any symptoms of an illness **such as** (fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, congestion, runny nose, chest pain, fatigue, muscle aches and pains, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, or any other symptom that has been mentioned by the CDC in regards to COVID-19) this test may not have any value to you.
- 2) If you decide to get the test, Star Valley Health can't give you a clear answer as to what the result means to you. You will hear our providers use terms and phrases like "maybe", "likely", "unlikely", "somewhat confident", etc. when discussing the results of your test. Why?

Because this is a new virus and the antibody test for this virus has been developed very quickly. Tests like these usually take years to develop, because the production of antibodies by the body is a complex event. The body produces several types of antibodies to several parts of most viruses and these antibodies are produced at different times after getting infected. Currently scientists don't know which antibodies are the important ones that confer immunity to SARS-CoV-2. Scientists do have some confidence that they can test for at least one type of antibody produced by the body against SARS-CoV-2. They also have some confidence that the antibody that is being tested isn't because you have had some other infection. As previously said though, these tests have been developed quickly and scientists don't feel as confident as they normally do when they have years to develop this sort of blood test.

Overall we do feel if you have had some symptoms as mentioned above in the last 2-3 months, and you test positive, it means you have been exposed to and became infected with the virus causing COVID-19 illness. It will NOT tell us if you are immune to the virus.

- 3) If you test positive (meaning you have produced an antibody to the virus, SARS-CoV-2, that causes COVID-19) your result will be reported to public health. This is considered a reportable disease and we must follow the state and federal regulations regarding a positive test of a reportable disease.
- 4) At this point, SVH believes that no insurance including Medicare and Medicaid will pay for this test. SVH has found out already that many insurances won't pay for the other SARS-CoV-2 test that Star Valley Health has performed, despite what has been reported on the national news. The price of the test does allow for a short one-time telephone visit with your Star Valley Health Primary Care Provider to interpret the results. If you don't have a local Primary Care Provider, one of our Urgent Care Providers will be calling you to discuss the results.
- 5) If you have had the nose swab test for SARS-CoV-2, it is reasonable to do this test no matter the nose swab test results. This information allows Star Valley Health as well as scientists around the world to understand all of our tests and this disease better. It may help us better understand the vaccines that are being tested as well.
- 6) After reading this information you may ask yourself, "Why should I even get the antibody test?" If enough people get tested for the antibody, even with its limitations, it will help us understand this virus better and allow us to answer some of the many questions we all have. SVH does think this test is accurate enough that it will help all of us speculate less and understand more.
- 7) Still have questions about whether this test is right for you? It is recommended that you call your Primary Care Provider to have a full telehealth visit. She or he will help you make a good decision about having this test and how it applies to your health. If you don't have a local Primary Care Provider, call one of our Urgent Care Clinics. Afton (307) 885-5700, Alpine (307) 654-5700.

