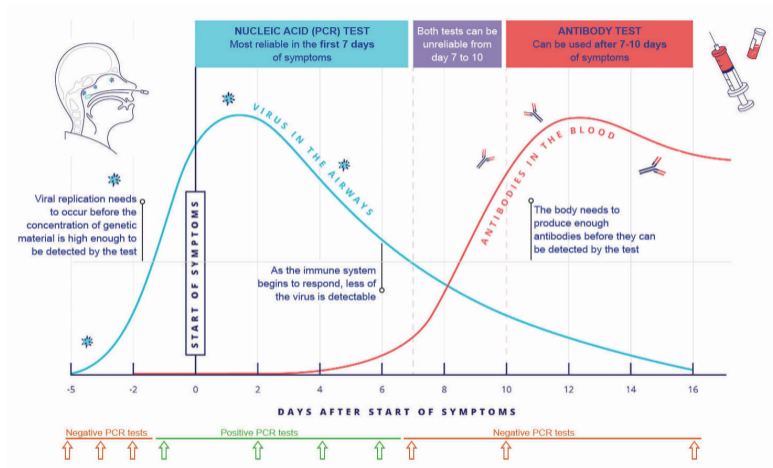


Diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 infections



SARS-CoV-2 is the causative agent of COVID-19.

For an acute infection, please submit a respiratory sample for Nucleic Acid (PCR) testing. An acute serum sample may be useful for in the event of convalescent antibody testing.

In the 7-14 days after symptoms both a respiratory sample for PCR and specific SARS-CoV-2 antibody testing may be indicated.

The serological response to SARS-CoV-2 may take 10-14 days and occasionally longer to develop. Approximately 5% of individuals may not develop antibodies. If the clinical suspicion is high testing out to 28 days post presumed exposure is recommended.

At this time the duration of antibody and correlation with neutralising antibodies and therefore immune protection is unknown or whether reinfection is possible.

Results should be interpreted in association with all information (clinical, epidemiological and laboratory) on the patient. Estimations around the interpretation of a positive or negative result can be made having a knowledge of the test sensitivity and specificity of the assay and the presumed prevalence of the patient population being tested.

Serology: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/phln-guidance-for-serological-testing-in-covid-19>

General including PCR: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/phln-guidance-on-laboratory-testing-for-sars-cov-2-the-virus-that-causes-covid-19>