

Serology Testing

Southcoast has instituted serology testing or screening for antibodies in the blood of patients. A body makes these antibodies when it fights an infection like COVID-19. To learn more about serology testing, please reach out to your primary care physician via [MyChart](#) or phone.

Information on serology Testing:

- Serology or antibody testing cannot tell if you are immune to COVID-19
- Tests should not be used to determine whether a patient had COVID-19
- Patients with antibodies should still practice social distancing, wear a mask, and adhere to other recommended precautions.
- The antibody or serology testing is not for routine individual patient care, but it is an important specialized tool to assist our disease surveillance efforts and has utility in certain pediatric cases.

The [CDC](#) clarifies some misconceptions about antibody testing; please share with loved ones and others in your networks who may ask about Southcoast's program.

Questions the CDC seeks to answer through serology testing:

- How much of the U.S. population has been infected with the virus causing COVID-19?
- How is this changing over time?
- Are there different characteristics, or [risk factors](#), that are associated with infection, such as age, location, or underlying health conditions?
- How many U.S. residents experienced mild or asymptomatic COVID-19 illness?
- How long can antibodies be found after a COVID-19 infection
- How much of the U.S. population is immune to COVID-19 and not able to get infected again?

Questions the CDC cannot answer through serology testing:

- How much of the U.S. population is immune to COVID-19 and not able to get infected again?
- How many antibodies are needed to protect someone from COVID-19?
- How long will someone with antibodies be protected from COVID-19?
- Can you be re-infected with COVID-19?
- Can people with antibodies return to work?