

## **SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Antibody Testing FAQ**

### **How and when will I receive test results?**

Test results will be sent via United States Postal Service within fourteen days of the test. For questions, please email [medicaloffice@lifesouth.org](mailto:medicaloffice@lifesouth.org).

### **What is a SARS-CoV-2 antibody test?**

LifeSouth performs the VITROS Immunodiagnostic Products Anti-SARS-CoV-2 Total antibody test, which looks for antibody to SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19). It is a total antibody test and does not differentiate between antibody classes (IgG, IgM), nor does it tell you the amount of antibody present. Most importantly, this test **is not a diagnostic test for COVID-19**. The test has been authorized for use by the FDA under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).

### **What are antibodies?**

Antibodies are proteins that are made in response to foreign substances, or antigens, in your body. Once formed, these antibodies can recognize the foreign substance and help in the immune response that fights off diseases.

### ***What does a reactive test mean?***

A reactive result means that antibody to SARS-CoV-2 has been detected in your blood and you have likely been exposed to the virus. This result qualifies you to be a convalescent plasma donor under the current FDA guidelines if you meet all other eligibility criteria. A reactive result does not tell you when you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or whether you are immune to the virus. Per the FDA, a reactive antibody test “may mean that the person has at least some immunity to the coronavirus”. Reactive results can occur after recovery from the illness, or even while you are still fighting the virus. False reactive results may also occur due to cross-reactivity with other antibodies to similar viruses or substances in your body.

### ***What does a non-reactive test mean?***

A non-reactive test means that you either don't have antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, or their levels are lower than the ability of this test to detect. This result also means that you would not qualify as a convalescent plasma donor in our program. A non-reactive result does not mean that you do not currently have, or have not had, COVID-19. Some who have had COVID-19 may not form a long-lasting antibody.

### **What should I do with these results?**

The antibody test is not designed to be a diagnostic test. You may wish to share this information with your physician if you have questions about their significance to your personal health. These results are not intended to offer proof of immunity against COVID-19 infection.

### **What is convalescent plasma?**

Convalescent plasma is a term for plasma taken from a donor who has recovered from a disease. Plasma is the liquid portion of blood, and where antibodies reside in the body. Some research has suggested that transfusing plasma with preformed antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 may help speed recovery and prevent mortality in those critically ill with COVID-19.

