SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Testing Guide

TEST NAME	INTENT OF USE	CLINICAL INTERPRETATION OF POSITIVE RESULTS
SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR/Swab	Early detection	Confirms diagnosis
Anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgM	Acute Infection	Acute infection in progress, requires confirmation by PCR
Anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgA	Current infection	Current infection in progress, requires confirmation by PCR
Anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgG	Past infection / immunity	Past infection, Immunity, negative results should be followed by PCR if indicated
SARS-CoV-2 Antigen	Antigen early detection	Confirms diagnosis, any negative test must be confirmed by PCR if indicated

TEST NAME	PERIOD OF DETECTION	SENSITIVITY	SPECIFICITY	FALSE POSITIVE
SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR/Swab	Initially / onset	HIGH	HIGH	LOW
Anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgM	5-7 days can stay up to 10-12 days	LOW	LOW	HIGH
Anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgA	7-10 days, can stay longer	LOW	LOW	HIGH
Anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgG	After 12-21 days, stays longer	HIGH	HIGH	LOW
SARS-CoV-2 Antigen	Initially / onset	LOW	HIGH	LOW

RECOMMENDATION FOR USE

- For early (onset) detection of SARS-CoV-2 use Molecular testing (Swab); Alternatively, Antigen test can be used, but all negative test must be retested by Molecular method.
- For immunity evaluation use Antibody IgG assay only
- No value or recommendation for use of IgM or IgA
- Serological, or antibody, tests should not be used to diagnose active infection, see info: http://medicaldatabase.com/covid-19-guidance

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