

# CORONAVIRUS ANTIBODY TEST FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES ONLY



# START HERE

This antibody test kit is part of a research study with Children of the 90s. Please be aware that the antibody test is very specific to COVID-19, but it has a limited sensitivity to detect infection. This means that the test is not accurate enough to confirm whether or not an individual has had COVID-19, but it is great for estimating how many people have already been infected with the virus which causes COVID-19 on average. It is this overall picture that can help the Government to plan its response and is really valuable for research.

## Result of this test

**We do not yet know if having antibodies against coronavirus stops people from getting COVID-19 again.** Whatever your result, you must continue to follow current Government advice.

Here is what you will be asked to do as you go ahead with taking this test.

- Read all of the information in the pack.
- Organise the testing kit in a clean, safe space.
- Follow the nine steps in this booklet.
- Record your result and dispose of the kit.



**The instructions in this booklet will guide you on how to take the test yourself. Although the test can be done alone, we advise you get someone from your household to assist you if you need.**

If you have internet access you can watch a video explaining the steps at [www.childrenofthe90s.ac.uk/antibodytest](http://www.childrenofthe90s.ac.uk/antibodytest)

Please follow the instructions carefully.

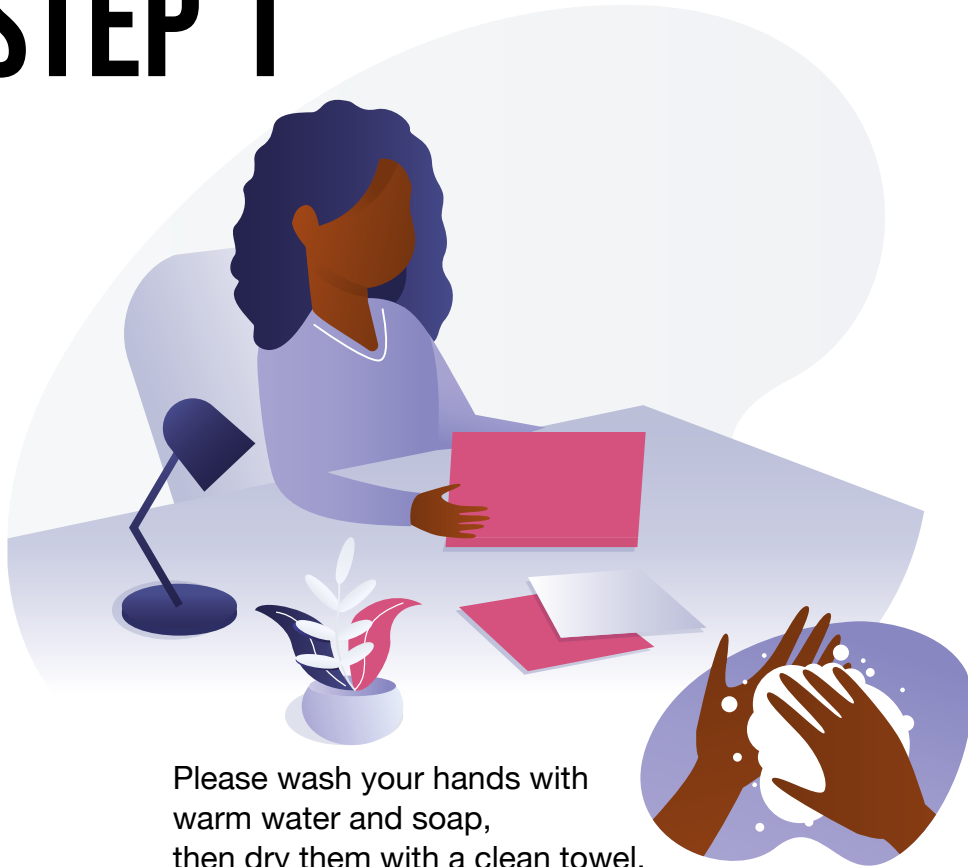
#### Do

- ✓ Read through this full instruction booklet before starting.
- ✓ Find a clean space on a table well away from children and pets to take the test.
- ✓ Give yourself about 30 minutes from start to finish to complete the test.
- ✓ Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before and after using the test kit.
- ✓ Straight after completing the test, follow Steps 6 & 7, do the questionnaire and upload a photo of the result.
- ✓ Safely dispose of the kit as outlined in this booklet.

#### Don't

- ✗ Do not allow children or pets to touch or access the test kit.
- ✗ Do not eat or swallow any part of the kit.
- ✗ Do not take any action as a result of the test. This is for research purposes only.
- ✗ Do not give the test to anyone else. This test is only to be done by the person it was sent to.

# STEP 1



Please wash your hands with warm water and soap, then dry them with a clean towel.

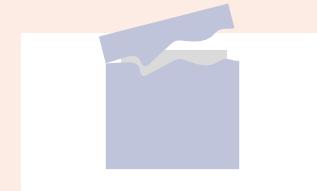
Now make plenty of space on a clean table, then lay out the pieces of the test kit in front of you.

Take the testing stick out of its foil wrapper and arrange the pieces of the test kit on your table.

**I** You may notice the testing stick has a blue line next to 'C' – this is normal.

Have your smartphone/camera ready to take a photo of the test result (See Step 7 for more details).

Arrange the various pieces of the test kit on a clean area of a table:



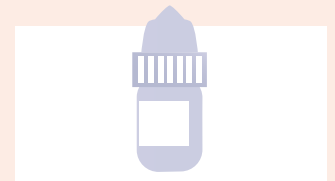
Alcohol wipe



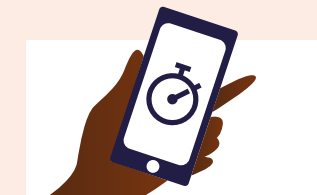
Two lancets, each with a protective cap over the needle



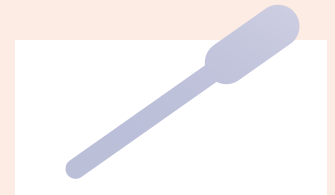
Testing stick, taken out of foil wrapper



Buffer liquid



Timer or clock (not included)



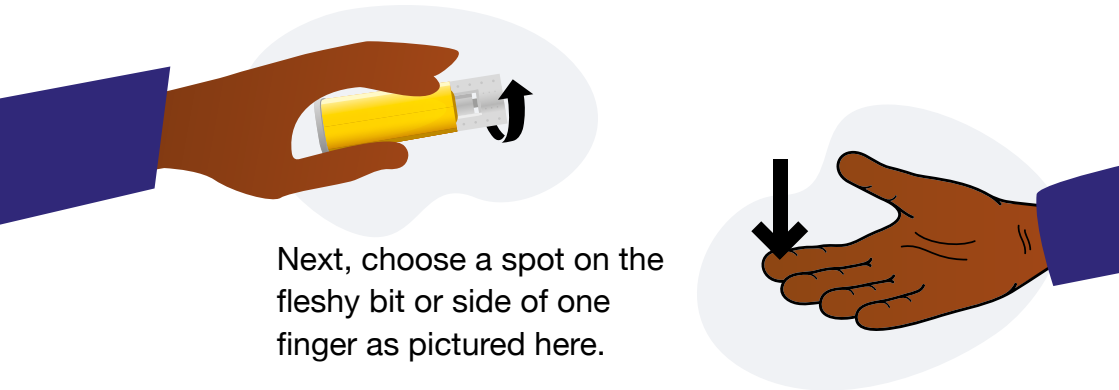
The pipette may be used to transfer the blood drop from finger to test.

A cotton wool ball and plaster are also provided. These are included to clean any blood left on your finger, and cover where you pricked your finger if required.

# STEP 2

Hold the yellow lancet and twist the cap one full turn to unlock, then pull the cap until you feel it separate from the device. Remove the cap completely. Do not force open the lancet or attempt to open the casing. If you have trouble taking the cap off the yellow lancet, try the orange lancet.

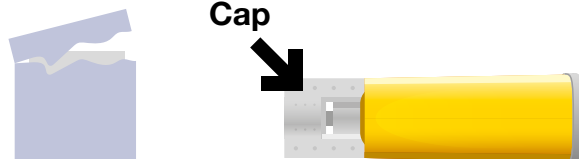
**You can dispose of the cap.**



Next, choose a spot on the fleshy bit or side of one finger as pictured here.

Wipe the area on your finger with the alcohol wipe.

**If you are right handed it may be easiest to choose a spot on your left hand and vice versa.**



Alcohol wipe

Lancet

To draw blood, press the uncapped end of the lancet firmly against your wiped finger until you hear a click.

**This will feel like a little pinch and will create a droplet of blood.**



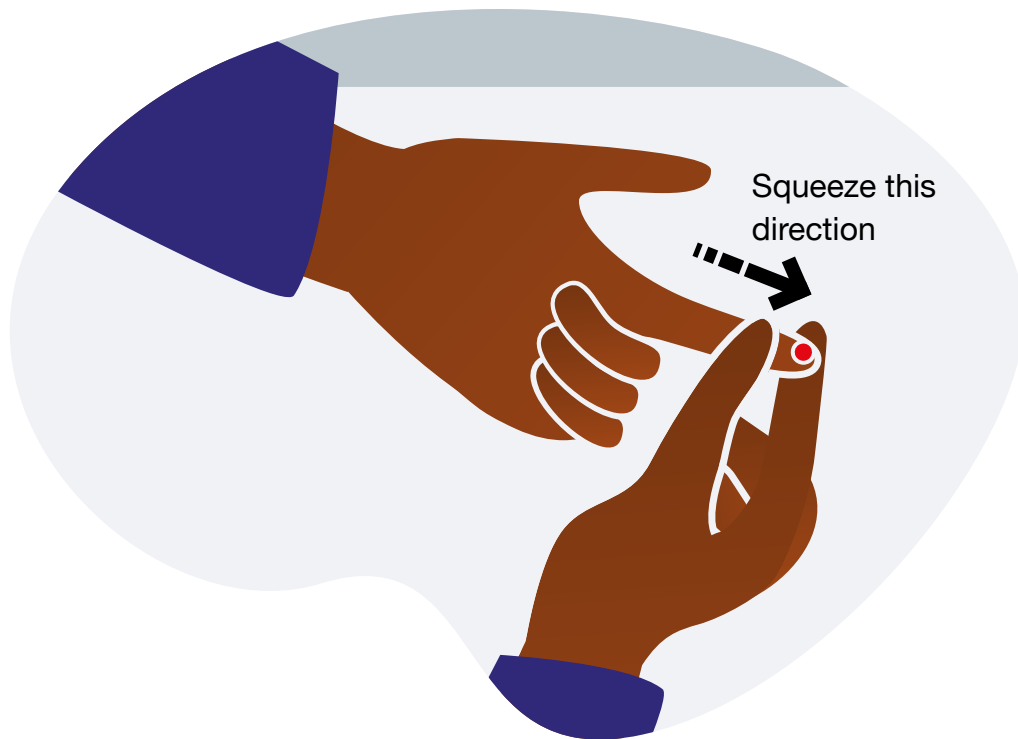
## Important: please read

If you find you are unable to produce a drop of blood, do not attempt to use other sharp objects to draw blood. You risk injuring yourself, causing infection and invalidating the test results.



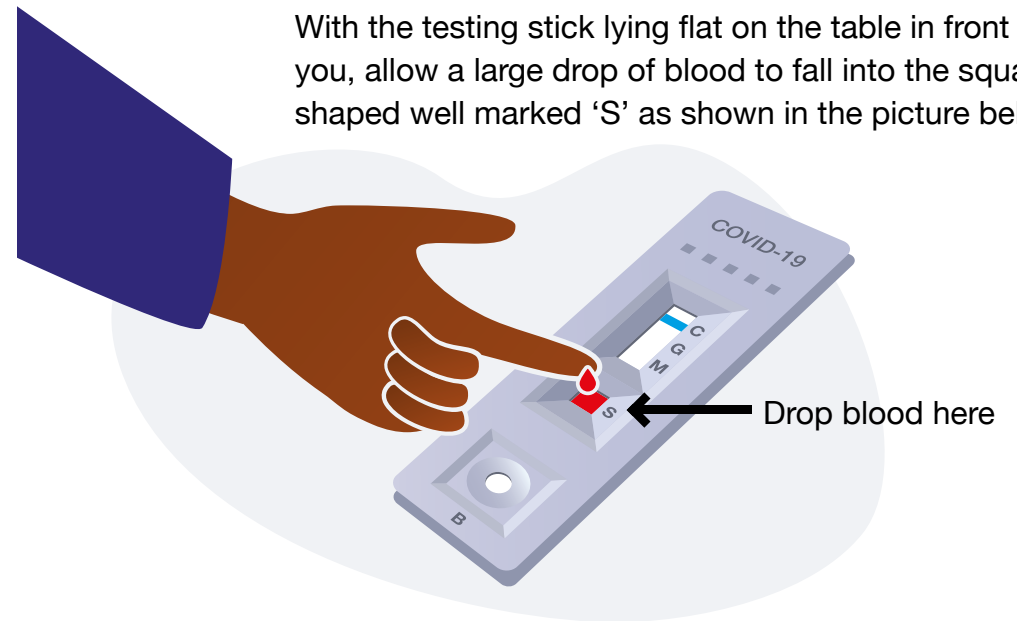
# STEP 3

Squeeze your finger from the base of your finger towards the fingertip. This will move the blood towards where you pricked your finger. Do this until you form a large droplet of blood.



# STEP 4

With the testing stick lying flat on the table in front of you, allow a large drop of blood to fall into the square shaped well marked 'S' as shown in the picture below.



Testing stick



Pipette

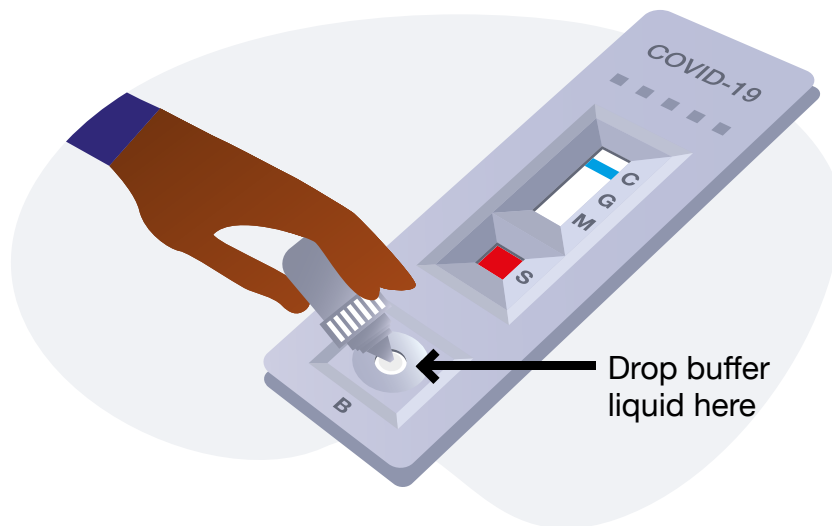
If you prefer, you can use the pipette to collect the blood droplet. Squeeze the pipette bulb whilst away from your finger, then gently touch the tip on to the drop of blood. Release pressure on the bulb to draw up blood. Move the pipette tip to the testing stick and gently squeeze again to drop the blood in the square well marked 'S'.

Be sure the blood covers the bottom of the well.  
The test will not work properly if not enough blood is dropped in.

If you don't get enough blood, repeat the prick with the orange lancet provided. You can do this from the same finger or a different finger.

# STEP 5

Remove the cap from the buffer liquid container and add two drops to the circular well at the bottom (marked 'B') as shown in the picture below.



Testing stick



Buffer liquid

# STEP 6

Once the buffer liquid has been added, **wait for 10 minutes but no longer than 15 minutes.**

If after two minutes the blue line has not turned red, add one additional drop of buffer liquid to the buffer well (marked 'B').



Timer or clock (not included)

# STEP 7

We need you to share your test result with us as part of this research study. The questionnaire will ask you to enter details of the test result. It will also be very helpful for us to have a photo of the test if you are able to take one.

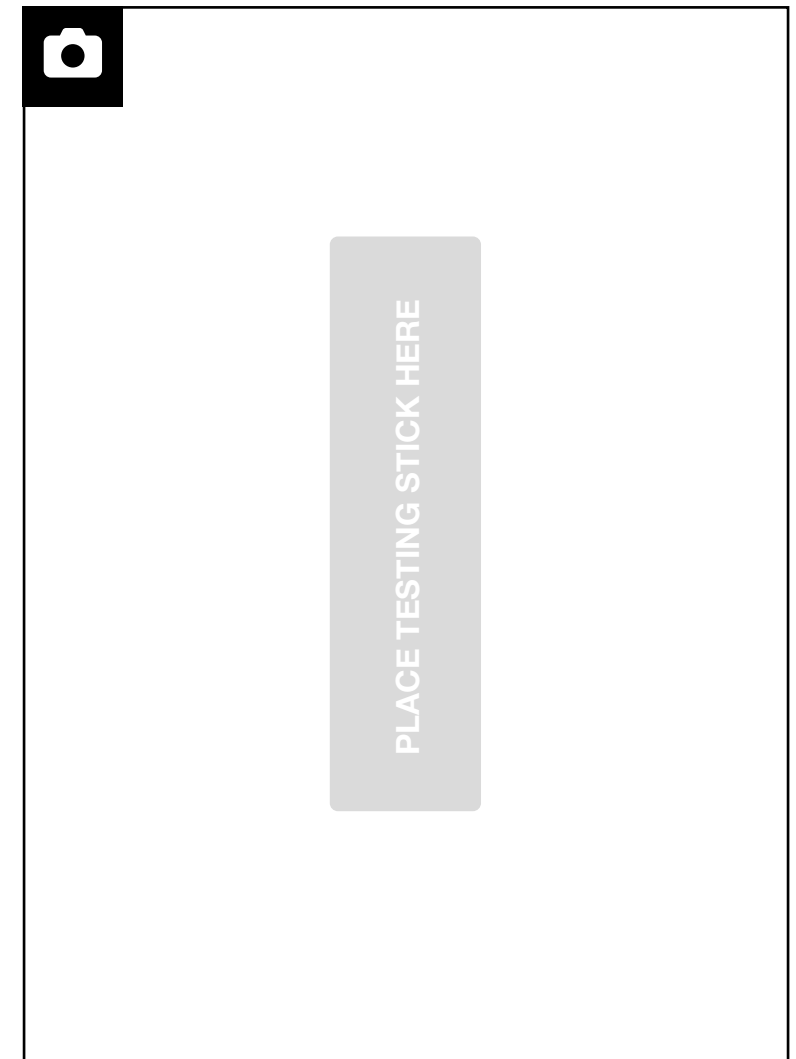


After waiting **10 minutes but no longer than 15 minutes**, take a photo of your testing stick using the template provided.

**You can share this photo with us when you complete the online questionnaire in Step 8.**

## Photo template

Place your testing stick on the shaded space below and take a photo from directly above in a well lit area. Avoid any shadows in the photo and do not use a flash. Use the black line as a guide for the edges of your photo to keep the testing stick in the centre of the photo.





# STEP 8

Please visit [www.childrenofthe90s.ac.uk/antibodytest](http://www.childrenofthe90s.ac.uk/antibodytest)

Enter the details found on the letter in the test pack.  
Complete the questionnaire and upload the photo of your testing stick when prompted.

The results may fall into three categories, Invalid, Negative or Positive. Please review the images on the facing page to find the one that matches the pattern that has appeared on your testing stick.

## Result of this test

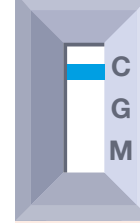
### **This test is for research purposes only.**

The results themselves are not able to confirm whether an individual has been infected with perfect accuracy - so continue to follow Government guidance.

## What do the results mean?

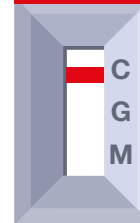
Antibodies are made by the immune system to fight infection. This test looks for two types of antibodies, IgM ('M' line), which don't stay in the body very long, and IgG ('G' line), which are usually longer lasting. By looking for antibodies in your blood, we can understand whether someone has previously been infected with the virus that causes COVID-19.

## Invalid test result



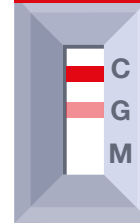
Your test result is invalid if the line next to 'C' is still completely or partially blue, whether or not there are other visible lines next to 'G' or 'M'. This means the test has not worked and no result can be given.

## Negative test result



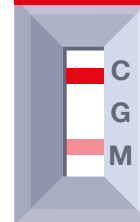
Your test result is negative if the line next to 'C' is completely red and there are no lines next to 'G' or 'M'.

## IgG positive test results



Your test result is positive if the line next to 'C' is completely red and there is a line (no matter how light or dark) next to 'G' or 'G' and 'M'.

## IgM positive test result



Your test result is positive if the line next to 'C' is completely red and there is a line (no matter how light or dark) next to 'M'.

### **This test is only for research purposes**

**This test is not reliable at the individual level so please do not change your behaviour whatever the result. We do not yet know if having antibodies against coronavirus protects people from getting COVID-19 again.**

#### **Safety precautions:**

- In case of accidental skin exposure to the buffer liquid, wash the exposed area with soap and water.
- In case of accidental eye exposure to the buffer liquid, rinse the eyes thoroughly with cool water.
- If irritation or any other symptoms develop after accidental ingestion or exposure to the buffer liquid, call NHS 111 to seek medical advice.
- If you experience any physical, mental or emotional harm as a result of using the kit, please contact the Children of the 90s – using the contact details on the back page – to discuss.

## **STEP 9**

You have now completed the test and can safely dispose of the test kit. Please do the following:

#### **Disposal of the test kit**

- Place the testing stick back into its foil wrapper.
- Place all of the test kit items into the plastic case they came in.
- Dispose of the kit with your regular household waste.
- Keep out of reach of children and pets.

If you choose not to complete the test, you should dispose of the kit following the instructions above.

With thanks to Imperial College London and  
the Real-time Assessment of Community  
Transmission (REACT) Study  
for the adaptation of these materials.

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**Avon Longitudinal Study  
of Parents and Children**