



Wake County
Public Health Division

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 16, 2020
TO: Long-term Care Facilities
FROM: Dr. Kim McDonald, Wake County Medical Director
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Antibody Testing

Every day, the medical community learns more about COVID-19.

In Wake County, we learned of our first positive case in early March. Since then, we have continued to follow the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance on how best to manage COVID-19 in our community.

As the virus continues to spread within Wake County, it is only natural that people are beginning to ask questions about topics such as immunity, antibodies, and how we can continue to slow the spread, even as the state begins implementing its phased reopening plan.

Recently, we have received a number of questions about antibody testing. In particular, people want to know if they have antibodies, and if so, are they immune to infection from COVID-19.

We addressed some of these questions earlier this week on our [Guidance for Healthcare Providers](#) webpage and our [COVID-19 FAQs](#). I encourage you to review this information to help you communicate with patients about getting tested for antibodies.

It is important for clinicians and patients to understand that, at this time, antibody testing for COVID-19 is not used for diagnosis, nor does it provide assurance that people cannot become re-infected with the virus. Until we understand more about the virus and have better data on test performance, antibody results can't be properly interpreted.

We will continue to monitor the testing landscape along with development of effective treatments or changes in protocols.

In the meantime, Wake County is working hard to keep our [COVID-19 webpage](#) up-to-date and encourage you to email us questions at covid19.questions@wakegov.com, or call our COVID-19 information line at 919-856-7044 if you have specific questions.

Thank you for your time, attention and service to our community during this challenging time.