



Press Release
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Media Contact
Stephen Kuehler | stephen.kuehler@knoxhospital.org
940-657-3535

Knox County Hospital District Offers COVID-19 Antibody Testing

Antibody testing lets you know if you have already had coronavirus.

KNOX CITY, Texas (July 2, 2020) – As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to change the American way of life, government-approved antibody testing for the virus is now available at Knox County Hospital District. Antibody testing for COVID-19 is used to detect the presence of antibodies for the virus, indicating an immune system response to a previous infection.

“Knowing more about whether or not you have previously had the virus can provide much insight into your health,” says Ronnie Deal, Laboratory Director at Knox County Hospital District. “If you have had symptoms of the coronavirus, but never were tested, this could explain a lot. If you are simply curious about a previous exposure and displayed no symptoms, this antibody testing can shed light on that.”

Screening for antibodies at Knox County Hospital uses government-approved processes. Tests are 100 percent sensitive and 99.8 percent specific for COVID-19. Same-day collection and testing are available in a safe and secure facility. The results will let you know if you have already had COVID-19 and, therefore, might have resistance or immunity to the virus.

Deal adds that antibody testing not only brings peace of mind, but it is a critical measure for employers and community organizations to reduce community spread.

According to health officials, the novel coronavirus is transmitted primarily from person to person, and social distancing is one of the most important ways that you can limit your risk of getting ill or spreading the virus. Many of those who are infected with COVID-19 can be infectious for several days before experiencing symptoms.

While symptoms of COVID-19 can include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, many individuals may be asymptomatic, meaning they show no symptoms of the highly contagious virus.

Those most at risk of developing severe illness from COVID-19 are those with weak or compromised immune symptoms and the elderly. Limiting time spent in public to necessary errands and washing hands frequently are essential ways to reduce the risk of exposure.

Regardless of age or health status, those who have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 are encouraged to seek medical advice.

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Knox County Hospital District
701 SE 5th St. | Knox City, TX 79529 | 940-657-3535



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As of July 1, there have been more than 2.68 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States, with more than 128,000 deaths as a result. In Texas, just over 168,000 cases have been confirmed, with nearly 2,500 deaths.

There are currently no vaccinations to treat or prevent the coronavirus.

Antibody testing for COVID-19 is performed at Knox County Hospital in Knox City. For more information and how to schedule an appointment, please call 940-657-3535. If you believe you have recently been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and are experiencing symptoms, please contact your primary healthcare provider immediately.

About Knox County Hospital District

Founded in 1926, Knox County Hospital District provides healthcare for residents of Knox County and surrounding areas. The district offers a wealth of medical services, including 24-hour emergency care, advanced radiology services, a clinical laboratory, home health, physical therapy, long-term care, patient education, and more. For additional information, please call 940-657-3535 or visit www.knoxhospital.org.

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