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## NEW MEXICO HEALTH ALERT NETWORK (HAN)

### ADVISORY

#### **Antibody tests for COVID-19 should not be used for diagnosis of active SARS-CoV-2 infection**

July 2, 2020

**According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), antibody tests should not be used for the diagnosis of active SARS-CoV-2 infection.** The antibody tests for SARS-CoV-2 are not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for diagnostic use, and only determine if the patient being tested was previously infected, with or without symptoms. Therefore, a positive test result does not necessarily confirm an active SARS-CoV-2 infection and should not be used for diagnostic purposes.

The evidence is limited on if a positive antibody test result indicates immunity and the extent to which antibody levels protect against SARS-CoV-2 infection. For these reasons, SARS-CoV-2 antibody tests should not be used to determine if a patient is immune. Additionally, antibody tests should not be used to determine when an employee may return to work.

**For questions or to report a COVID-19 hospitalization, please call the NMDOH Epidemiology and Response Division at 505-827-0071.**

#### Resources

- [CDC Overview of Testing for SARS-CoV-2](#)
- [CDC Antibody Testing At-A-Glance Recommendations for Professionals](#)
- [NMDOH COVID-19 Webpage](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Webpage](#)
- **New Mexico Health Alert Network:** To register for the New Mexico Health Alert Network, go to <https://member.everbridge.net/index/453003085613008#/login> and click "Sign Up" at the bottom of the page. Provide all information on each screen, click on "Save and Continue," and click on "Finish" at the end to begin receiving important health alerts and advisories.

#### EPIDEMIOLOGY AND RESPONSE

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