COVID-19: The life cycle and testing as of May 31, 2020

Person is exposed and becomes infected. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

PCR Testing (polymerase chain reaction) is the test for virus
Done using a nasal swab
100% accurate if swab is done correctly

IgM present, attacking virus
IgG present, remembering what to do in case of any future attacks

Ab Testing (antibody testing)
Done using a blood draw. Accuracy depends sensitivity and specificity of the test.

IgM = Immediate Response Antibody Testing
IgG = Memory Antibody Testing

There are 2 types of tests:

- IgM & IgG Test (Total Antibody Test). This is the test for the Immediate Response Antibody (IgM) AND the Memory Antibody (IgG).
- IgG-Only Test. This test is for only the Memory Antibody (IgG).