**Date: 11.6.2020**

**Please be aware that this is a rapidly evolving situation.**

**Understanding the antibody blood test for Covid-19**

Dear <<Patient>>,

You have requested the antibody blood test to see if you have previously had Covid-19. This is not a test to show if you currently have Covid-19. This letter is to enable you to understand what the result means.

The test is to check for antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19 infection. Antibodies are produced by the body as part of the immune response to fight infection. The presence of antibodies in the blood means that you have been infected / exposed to Covid-19 in the past.

Please note that the test result does not change any advice regarding the precautions that you need to take to reduce your chance of contracting or spreading Covid-19.

**Interpreting a positive test**

* A positive antibody test means that you previously had the virus that causes Covid-19 and that your body has produced an immune response.
* A positive result **does not** necessarily mean that you are immune to Covid-19, or that you cannot pass on the virus to others.
* A positive result **does not** mean that you can ignore social distancing measures.

**Interpreting a negative test**

* A negative antibody test means that you have not produced antibodies in response to Covid-19, this could be because;
	+ You have not been exposed to Covid-19 infection (true negative)
	+ You have been exposed to Covid-19 but did not produce antibodies in response (false negative)
		- Due to the test being administered too soon after the infection *or*
		- Your immune response to Covid-19 was a type that does not result in antibodies being produced.

**Regardless of whether the antibody test is positive or negative you should still;**

* Observe social distancing measures.
* Maintain hygiene and infection control measures (hand washing, face coverings as indicated).

***You are undertaking this test in the knowledge that the result does not change the precautions that you should be taking to prevent spread of Covid-19, has no direct health benefits to you but will help to provide national data on the spread of Covid-19.***

Once available we will inform you of the result by <<text>> / <<phone>> / <<email>> [Delete according to practice/patient preference].

Yours Sincerely,

On Behalf of <<Practice>>