

FROM THE DOCTORS OF OUR COMMUNITY

UNDERSTANDING ANTIBODY TESTING

COVID-19 Antibody testing is now available and many in our community have had or are considering having the antibody testing done. The antibody test is a blood test that is different than the nasal swab test that is done to confirm an active COVID-19 infection. Antibody testing can help us identify those who have had COVID-19 illness. We encourage those of you who have recovered from COVID-19 to participate in the antibody testing trials being conducted by academic medical centers (e.g. Mayo Clinic and Mt Sinai) who are studying the use of donated plasma for the treatment of sick COVID-19 patients.

It is critical that you know that many antibody tests outside of these trials have not been approved and may provide inaccurate and unreliable results, particularly those being touted as providing rapid results.

We urge everyone in our community to know that although antibody testing may have benefit in the future, the antibody test presently has several serious limitations.

- The presence of antibodies DOES NOT necessarily mean that you are immune to the COVID-19 virus.
- The presence of antibodies DOES NOT mean that you are no longer contagious.
- Conversely, the absence of antibodies DOES NOT mean that you do not have COVID-19 as you may be in the asymptomatic phase and still be infectious to others.
- In addition, it may be possible to become re-infected with COVID-19 after all of the symptoms have gone away. Studies are now investigating the question of who is immune to the COVID-19 virus and therefore, will not get the illness again, but it is not yet known who is immune.
- An antibody test that shows that you have antibodies is not a license of any sort to reduce COVID-19 precautions or social distancing.

We implore you to continue to protect your loved ones and **DO NOT** rely upon antibody testing at this time as a passport to exit from social distancing. We have learned much about the coronavirus and there is reason to be hopeful as treatments and vaccines will become available. However, until that time, please stay safe, continue to practice social distancing, and do not rely upon antibody testing to guide your behavior.

Respectfully,
Your Community Doctors

Rabbi Elie Abadie M.D.
Dr. Jeff Abergel
Dr. Maurice Alwaya
Dr. Albert M. Bassoul
Dr. Sam Bekar
Dr. Aline Benjamin

Dr. Maurice Betesh
Dr. Saul Betesh
Dr. Robin Bobo
Dr. Joey Bouganim
Dr. Jack Braha
Dr. Hymie Chera

Dr. Murray Choueka
Dr. Max Cohen
Dr. Ezra Dayan
Dr. Nesity Dahan
Dr. Stuart Ditchek
Dr. Victor Douek

Please note that this letter was composed in an expedited fashion as a response to the current quickly changing situation. We apologize in advance for any errors or omissions. We also welcome comments and any other doctors who would like to have their name added to future versions and updates. Please email us at info@scaupdates.org

04/28/2020 v1

FROM THE DOCTORS OF OUR COMMUNITY

Dr. Joseph Durzieh
Dr. Edward Ebani
Dr. Elie Elmann
Dr. Solly Elmann
Dr. Edward Esses
Dr. Gary Esses
Dr. Steven Esses
Dr. David Ezon
Dr. Fred Ezon
Dr. Isaac Ezon
Dr. Izak Faiena
Dr. Faraj Faour
Dr. Victor Fariwa
Dr. Albert Ftiha
Dr. Elie Ftiha
Dr. Joseph E. Glaser
Dr. Loren Gorcey Franco
Dr. Steven Gorcey
Dr. Edward Gindi
Dr. Victor Grazi
Dr. Sam Hanon
Dr. Monique Hanono
Dr. Daniel Hanono
Dr. Joseph Hanono
Rabbi Dr. Henry Hasson
Dr. Adam Harari
Dr. Saul Harari
Dr. Albert Hazan
Dr. Ezra Hazan

Dr. Jack Husney
Dr. Joseph Husney
Dr. Robert Husney
Dr. Jack Kabariti
Dr. Habib Kamkhaji
Dr. Aaron Kessel
Dr. Shaya Khabyeh-Hasbani
Dr. Albert Khaski
Dr. David Khaski
Dr. Howie Kurtz
Dr. Jack Kurtz
Dr. Leon Kurtz
Dr. Isaac Lati
Dr. Jack Levenson
Dr. Miriam Lieberman
Dr. Isaac Madeb
Dr. Ralph Madeb
Dr. Benjamin Mann
Dr. Steven Mann
Dr. Daniel Masri
Dr. Robert Matalon
Dr. Daniel Matalon
Dr. David Matalon
Dr. Charles Manopla
Dr. Mike Mizrahi
Dr. Jack Mlabasati
Dr. Alan Nasar
Dr. Jason Nehmad
Dr. Shelly Rishty

Dr. Sarah Rosanel
Dr. Hayeem Rudy
Dr. Gabby Saadia
Dr. Joseph J. Safdieh
Dr. Elias Sasson
Dr. Victor Hymie Sasson
Dr. Stanley Schrem
Dr. Ellen Setton
Dr. Robert Setton
Dr. Ezra Schrem
Dr. Sam Serouya
Dr. Isaac H Shalom
Dr. Morris Shamah
Dr. Steven Shamah
Dr. Josef Shehebar
Dr. Mourad Shehebar
Dr. Ayla Sitt
Dr. David Sitt
Dr. Jimmy Sitt
Dr. Charles Suede
Dr. Richard Sultan
Dr. Elie Sutton
Dr. Dana Sutton
Dr. Joseph Tawil
Dr. Albert Turkieh
Dr. Joseph Wahba
Dr. Shimshi Zimmerman

Please note that this letter was composed in an expedited fashion as a response to the current quickly changing situation. We apologize in advance for any errors or omissions. We also welcome comments and any other doctors who would like to have their name added to future versions and updates. Please email us at info@scaupdates.org

04/28/2020 v1