

# COVID-19 Laboratory Diagnostics

## Acute infection

**Diagnosis**  
Molecular test (RT-PCR) to detect SARS-CoV-2 virus

**Positive:** Confirmed COVID-19.

**Negative:** Repeat test if clinical findings match with Covid-19. Negative PCR does not alone rule out infection.

## During infection

**Assessing the severity of the infection** – biochemical monitoring with several markers\*

CRP

**Increase:** More severe disease, predicting mortality.

**Decrease / Normal:**  
Patient is starting to recover, mild disease.

## Post infection or / and epidemiological surveillance

**Immune response activation**  
Anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibody testing (IgG, IgM)

**Positive:** Past COVID-19 infection. If patient with respiratory symptoms, confirm with molecular test to exclude coronavirus infection at the infectious stage.

**Negative:** Does not rule out possible past infection. It can mean the test is done too early and no antibodies are produced yet. Repeat test later.