

Understanding the Results of Your Infectious Disease Blood Test

Please check the details for each of the tests that you have received.

Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)

Testing positive for HBsAg often indicates a persistent infection (carrier state) of the hepatitis B virus (HBV). The HBV is contained in bodily fluids such as blood, saliva, and semen, and can be transmitted percutaneously or transmucosally through exposure to bodily fluids. Those who are positive for HBsAg need to be careful for infecting others.

Hepatitis B surface antibody (HBsAb)

Positive (10 mIU/ml or greater)

This suggests that the vaccine was effective or that you may have been infected with HBV in the past. A result of 10 mIU/ml or greater is considered a reliable marker of protection against infection. If you have not completed the primary vaccination series even though your antibody titer is 10 mIU/ml or higher, it is recommended to complete the prescribed three doses in order to enhance the immune memory against HBV and to maintain long-term protection against HBV infection. If you would like to receive additional HBV vaccination, please contact the Health Center. However, the Center of Disease Control and Prevention in U.S. (CDC) recommends that HBV vaccination should not exceed a total of six doses during a lifetime.

Negative (less than 10 mIU/ml)

HBV vaccination is recommended for those who may come into contact with blood or bodily fluids in the course of their work. Even if the Ab titers have been positive in the past, they may become negative over time.

HBV Vaccine status HBsAb	You have never been vaccinated	You have not completed the primary vaccination series*1	You have completed the primary vaccination series*1
10 mIU/ml or greater	Vaccination not required (if previously infected)	Complete the primary vaccination series *1	Vaccination not required
Less than 10 mIU/ml	Primary vaccination series*1 required	Complete the primary vaccination series *1	Booster shoot *2 recommended

*1 Healthcare workers who have never been vaccinated have to receive the primary vaccination series (3 doses of vaccine over 6 months). It is available at the Health Center, scheduled to begin in December, the second in January, and the third in July. If you would like to receive the primary vaccination series, please apply at the Health Center after receiving the information.

*2 A booster shot (single dose) is recommended for those whose antibody titer is negative despite having received the primary vaccination series in the past. Booster shot is also available at the Health Center (around July). If you would like to receive the booster, please apply at the Health Center after receiving the information.

Hepatitis C antibody (HCV Ab)

Testing positive for HCV Ab (cut-off value; 1.0 S/CO) indicates that you may be infected with the hepatitis C virus (HCV). HCV is transmitted via blood, so healthcare workers who often handle blood are at risk of becoming infected. Those whose HCV Ab titer is positive is recommended to visit specialist's office. For more information, please contact the Health Center.

IGRA (Mycobacterium tuberculosis test)

IGRA is a test to detect tuberculosis infection. If your test results are "positive," "borderline," or "indeterminate," it does not completely rule out Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection, so please consult with the Health Center.