

Tests for SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 and Potential Uses			
Type of Test	Measure	Value	Beneficiary
Nucleic acid amplification test for viral RNA (nasopharyngeal swab, oropharyngeal swab, sputum, bronchoalveolar lavage fluid, saliva)	Presence of RNA from SARS-CoV-2 Current or recent infection and proxy measure of infectivity	+ Inform individual of infection status so they can anticipate course of illness	+ Individual
		+ Inform patient management	+ Healthcare or long-term care facility
		+ Facilitate contact tracing and inform actions needed to prevent transmission	+ Public health
Antibody detection (blood, serum, plasma)	Past exposure to SARS-CoV-2 Current tests are NOT a direct measure of immunity	+ Detect susceptible individuals (antibody negative) and those previously infected	+ Identify those potentially immune to SARS-CoV-2 (for tests that detect protective immunity)
		+ Identify individuals with neutralising antibodies – if specifically measured	+ Healthcare facilities: experimental therapies
		+ Facilitate contact tracing and surveillance actions needed to prevent transmission	+ Public health



Graphic is Adapted from: Robin Patel et al. mBio 2020; doi:10.1128/mBio.00722-20

