



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20201102-00472-ALT (Health Alert)

RECIPIENTS: All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and
Healthcare Providers – Statewide

Monday, November 2, 2020

SUBJECT: Inappropriate use of Antibody (Serology) Testing to
Determine the Need for Quarantine

Dear Providers,

The Mississippi State Department of Health has received numerous questions regarding the use of antibody or serology testing to determine if contacts to COVID-19 infected persons require quarantine based on the results. In some cases, providers are performing antibody testing and if positive are indicating that quarantine is not required.

Antibody tests should not be used to determine the need for quarantine after exposure to a COVID-19 infected person. This is not an appropriate use of COVID-19 antibody

A positive antibody test for COVID-19 is generally presumed to mean that the person was potentially infected with SARS-CoV-2 at some point in the past. It does not indicate when the infection may have occurred, it does not indicate that a person is immune or protected from infection and should not be used to diagnose an acute or active infection.

There is currently no “test out of quarantine” methodology. Individuals who are exposed to a COVID-19 infected person within 6 feet for a total 15 minutes or longer (cumulative) should receive a viral test to identify infection (PCR; antigen) and should be quarantined for a full 14 days even if the viral test is negative.

The only temporary exclusion of quarantine after exposure is for individuals who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 infection by a viral test (PCR; antigen) within the last 3 months. These individuals **do not need to quarantine or get tested again for up to 3 months as long as they do not develop symptoms again.**

Additional CDC Resources:

- Using Antibody Tests for COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/resources/antibody-tests.html>
- When to Quarantine: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

As always, please feel free to reach out to the MSDH Office of Epidemiology with questions or concerns at 601-576-7725.

Paul Byers, MD
State Epidemiologist



Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency:	Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program:	MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier:	MSHAN-20201102-00472-ALT
Program (HAN) Type:	Health Alert
Status (Type):	Actual ()
Message Type:	Alert
Reference:	MSHAN-00472
Severity:	Unknown
Acknowledgement:	No
Sensitive:	Not Sensitive
Message Expiration:	Undetermined
Urgency:	Undetermined
Delivery Time:	600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency:	A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.
Alerting Program:	The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.
Message Identifier:	A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (ALT=Health Alert , ADV=Health Advisory , UPD=Health Update , MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service)).
Program (HAN) Type:	Categories of Health Alert Messages.
Health Alert:	Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory:	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update:	Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
Health Info Service:	Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.
Status (Type):	
Actual:	Communication or alert refers to a live event
Exercise:	Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test:	Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded



Message Type:

Alert: Indicates an original Alert
Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:

Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe: Significant threat to life or property
Moderate: Possible threat to life or property
Minor: Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).