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# ATTENTION

## Public Health Alert

DATE: April 27, 2020

SUBJECT: **2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) Antibody/Serology Testing - Updated Guidance**

As antibody testing becomes available in the community, the public should be aware of the limitations of such tests.

- COVID-19 antibody testing or serology testing is **SHOULD NOT BE USED** for:
  - The diagnosis of COVID-19
  - Establishing immunity to COVID-19
  - Determining when persons can safely return to work
  - Determining when to discontinue social isolation measures or appropriate precautions, including the use of PPE
- Most of the currently available COVID antibody test kits have not been FDA reviewed or approved.
- Even the few test kits that have been FDA reviewed and approved under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) have significant limitations in their sensitivity and specificity, which can yield either false positive or false negative results.
- Coronaviruses which cause the common cold may cross react with COVID-19 antibody tests and result in false positive COVID-19 results.