



Subject: Free COVID-19 Antibody Test with the Department of Health

March 23, 2021

Dear Airport Employee,

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) is offering free COVID-19 antibody testing to employees who work at the Philadelphia International Airport. As you well know, the transportation sector has experienced severe impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic and as cases continue to be reported, access to vaccine limited, new strains of virus emerging - travel will continue to pose a significant risk to passengers, workers and the general public. Antibodies are proteins that a person makes after they are infected or after they have been vaccinated to help recognize and fight off infection when exposed to the same virus in the future.

What's in it for us? The Department of Health will better understand how much infection has occurred among an essential workforce that has been unable to work from home. It will help us come up with better ways to protect workers, reduce spread and allow safer travel so that the industry can continue to operate until this is over.

What's in it for you? You will get to know if you have antibodies to COVID-19 and if you have protection from future exposures. If you have been vaccinated, it will tell you that you had a good reaction to vaccine and are protected. If you do not have antibodies, then you are vulnerable to infection. This might help you decide to get vaccinated when able or help you take other steps to avoid getting exposed and sick with COVID-19.

Participation is completely voluntary and involves submitting a consent form, answering a short questionnaire about your experiences with COVID-19, and allowing a nurse to collect one tube of blood to only be tested for COVID-19 antibodies. We will keep all of your information confidential and I will provide the results of the test only to you and privately. I will also be available to answer any of your questions to help you understand what the results of the test mean for you.

If you would like to participate, please register by clicking this link: [COVID-19 Serology Study Registration- Philadelphia International Airport](#). Or you can register by scanning the QR code with the camera feature on your smart phone.

I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to help us understand how bad this has been, and for you to know your status so you can make good decisions to protect yourself and help us make the best decisions to protect the public.

If you have any questions about this opportunity, please send an email to RA-DHSEROLOGY@pa.gov.

Thank you for your consideration.

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COVID-19 Medical Epidemiologist

Bureau of Epidemiology | Pennsylvania Department of Health

