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## GETTING BACK TO WORK IN A TIME OF COVID-19

Antibody testing has a powerful role in restoring the US economy back to normal.

Two things are universally true about the COVID-19 pandemic: Everyone wants to see schools, businesses, and other organizations open and the economy restored, and everyone wants as few people as possible to become horribly sick and die. This dilemma is especially acute for employers, who want to restore their organizations to normal and protect their most valuable resource – people.

An essential component of business recovery and COVID-19 control is an effective regimen of testing as highlighted by US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which recommends that viral testing be used to diagnose infections from the SARS-CoV-2 virus, as well as antibody testing to "help determine whether the individual being tested was previously infected—even if that person never showed symptoms."<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, businesses face a confusing array of testing guidelines that come from different sources and continuously change as more about the virus becomes known. Even something as simple as taking a temperature is now embraced with caution, as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has listed several limitations<sup>2</sup> including people being asymptomatic, the effect of fever reducing drugs, and the need to ensure proper device operation. One recent study<sup>3</sup> demonstrated that temperature checks were ten times less effective than asking if someone lost their sense of smell, and that no single test alone should be used to confirm diagnosis. And while much of the focus of identifying COVID-19 has been on virus testing, little attention has been paid to the role of antibody testing as an important part of moving beyond COVID-19 and back to normalcy.

In creating an effective testing program, it is helpful to understand the nature of the SARS-CoV-2 virus (which causes the COVID-19 disease), why testing is so important, the types of testing available, and the roles they play in disease detection. That information can help organizations devise an effective testing regimen for their team members.

Novir offers a comprehensive approach to helping businesses get back to work confidently and quickly, even in these uncertain times. Quality-controlled, rapid serological antibody tests (RSAT™) detect whether a person has developed antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 infection, and do so quickly and cost-effectively. We also offer science-based, large-scale testing that provides a holistic approach to infection management.

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1. CDC. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) [Internet]. 2020 [cited 2020 Jul 11]. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/testing-overview.html>
  2. FDA. Non-contact Temperature Assessment Devices During the COVID-19 Pandemic [Internet]. FDA. 2020 [cited 2020 Jul 11]. Available from: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/emergency-situations-medical-devices/non-contact-temperature-assessment-devices-during-covid-19-pandemic>
  3. Wagner T, Shweta FNU, Murugadoss K, Awasthi S, Venkatakrisnan AJ, Bade S, et al. Augmented Curation of Clinical Notes from a Massive EHR System Reveals Symptoms of Impending COVID-19 Diagnosis. medRxiv. 2020 Jun 11;2020.04.19.20067660.