

Milwaukee company's antibody test determines if person had virus

Dec 17, 2020, 4:30pm CST Updated: Dec 17, 2020, 4:32pm CST

Novir, a Milwaukee company that launched this past spring in response to the novel coronavirus epidemic, is planning to ramp up production of its Covid-19 antibody test to about 100,000 tests per day in the coming months.



NOVIR

Alexander Kempe, founder of Novir

The company started in April by [Alexander Kempe](#), a former GE Healthcare executive turned digital medical entrepreneur. The

company's test can determine in minutes if a person had the virus and developed antibodies to the test. The test also shows active virus in some cases and if people who had the virus were asymptomatic. It is also developing a rapid virus detection test.

Earlier this year, Novir partnered with Milwaukee medical equipment design and manufacturer MPE-Inc. to offer its antibody test to its more than 200 employees.

"You need both diagnostic and inexpensive antibody testing to do this right," Novir President [Alexander Kempe](#) said.

"Diagnostic testing only tells part of the story. And you can't rely on symptoms alone to know who has or had the virus. Forget about temperature checks at the door. Those don't really help you. You need comprehensive testing plans, and we can help solve that at Novir."

Novir was recently named the overall winner of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp.'s \$3 million "We're All Innovating Contest".

The competition was created to fund new business models and innovations that solve financial and operational problems caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. More than 1,200 companies applied and top prizes went to 17 winners in three categories. Top winners in the categories will receive a maximum of \$68,000. The grants are being funded through federal CARES Act dollars, the agency stated.

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