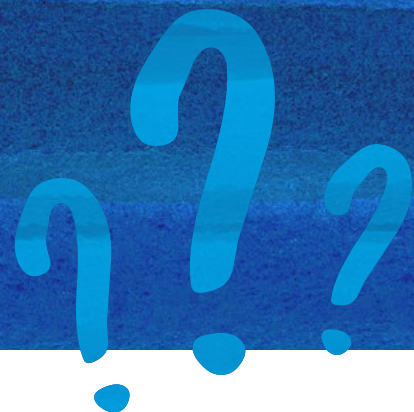


# Understanding your test results



Understanding your hepatitis B blood tests can be confusing. Are you infected? Protected? or at risk?

While only one sample of blood is needed for a hepatitis B blood test, three tests will be completed on that sample and the **results of each must be known to confirm your status.**



These tests are:

<b>HBsAg</b> <i>Hepatitis B surface antigen</i>	<b>Anti-HBs or HBsAb</b> <i>Hepatitis B surface antibody</i>	<b>Anti-HBc or HBcAb</b> <i>Hepatitis B core antibody</i>
<p>A positive <b>HBsAg</b> test result means you are infected and at risk of liver damage. Your blood can spread the hepatitis B virus to others.</p> <p>This test can detect the presence of the virus (the surface antigen) in your blood. A positive or reactive result means you have the hepatitis B virus and further testing is needed to determine if this is a new (acute) or long-standing (chronic) hepatitis B infection.</p>	<p>A positive or reactive <b>anti-HBs (or HBsAb)</b> test result indicates your immune system is active against the virus.</p> <p>If the <b>HBsAg</b> is negative it means you are protected and immune from infection. This protection can be the result of receiving the hepatitis B vaccine or of a successful recovery from a past hepatitis B infection.</p> <p>This test is not routinely included in blood bank screenings.</p>	<p>A positive or reactive <b>anti-HBc (or HBcAb)</b> test result indicates a past or current hepatitis B infection.</p> <p>The core antibody does not provide any protection against the hepatitis B virus.</p> <p>This test can only be fully understood by knowing the results of the <b>HBsAg</b> and <b>anti-HBs</b> test.</p> <p>If you have a positive <b>anti-HBc (or HBcAb)</b> test result please ask your health care provider for a complete explanation of your hepatitis B status.</p>

**The Hepatitis Foundation of New Zealand**

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