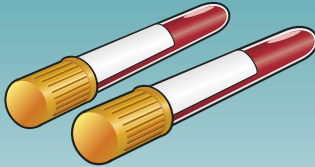




Tests Used for Diagnosing Hepatitis C



Two different types of blood tests, usually taken at two different times, are needed to tell if a person has hepatitis C (hep C).

Test 1: Hep C Antibody Test

This screening test tells if a person's body has ever made antibodies to fight against hep C.

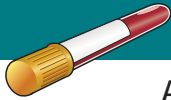
- If "negative", hep C antibodies were NOT found and the person has **never** been infected with hep C (except in unusual circumstances).
- If "positive", hep C antibodies were found and the person has been infected with hep C at some time. It does **not** tell if the person is still infected.

Test 2: Hep C Virus Test

This test (also known as a hep C RNA or PCR) is ordered if the antibody test comes back "positive". It determines if a person is still infected by testing for the presence of the hep C virus.

- If "negative", the hep C virus was not found and the person is **no longer** infected with hep C.
- If "positive", the hep C virus was found and the person **is** infected with hep C.

See other side of this page for a diagram of this testing process.



Test 1: Hep C Antibody Test

A screening test to check if a person has ever been infected with hep C

IF "NEGATIVE"

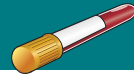
Person never infected with hep C

IF "POSITIVE"

- Hep C antibodies are present
- Person has been infected with hep C at some time
- Does not tell if person is still infected with hep C

Always discuss with a health care provider the meaning of your test results and if follow-up is necessary.

For more information, visit www.bccdc.ca and type "Attendance Project" in the search box.



Test 2: Hep C Virus Test

Determines if the person is still infected with hep C

IF "NEGATIVE"

Person is no longer infected with hep C

IF "POSITIVE"

Person is infected with hep C

