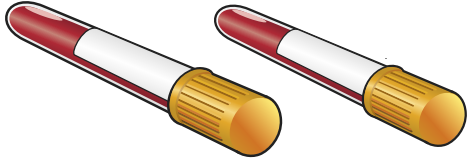


Tests Used for Diagnosing Hepatitis C



Two different types of blood tests, usually taken at two different times, are needed to tell if a person is living with hepatitis C.

Test 1: Hepatitis C Antibody Test

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

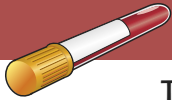
- If "negative", the person has **never** had hepatitis C (except in rare cases).
- If "positive", the person has had hepatitis C at some time. It does **not** tell if the person still has hepatitis C.

Test 2: Hepatitis C Virus Test

This test (also known as a hepatitis C RNA or PCR) is ordered if test 1 comes back "positive." It shows if a person **still** has hepatitis C by testing for the presence of the virus.

- If "negative", the person **no longer** has hepatitis C.
- If "positive", the person **has** hepatitis C.

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



Test 1: Hepatitis C Antibody Test

The first test checks if a person has **ever** had hepatitis C

IF "NEGATIVE"

Person has never had hepatitis C

IF "POSITIVE"

- Hepatitis C antibodies are present
- Person has had hepatitis C at some time
- Does not tell if person still has hepatitis 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: Hepatitis C Virus Test

Checks if the person is **still living with** hepatitis C

IF "NEGATIVE"

Person no longer has hepatitis C

IF "POSITIVE"

Person has hepatitis C

