

# WHAT WE KNOW IN THE NOW NORMAL

If we have learned anything in the last year it's that trying to predict virus pandemic outcomes is like trying to predict hurricane patterns—the variables are exponential, and the slightest shift can send it in a dramatically different direction.

Many assumptions we made in the recent year have proved incorrect; for instance the concept of herd immunity was developed and communicated broadly when we assumed there would be only one strain of SARSCoV2. The variants of concern now include seven.

## BUT WE DO HAVE SOME INSIGHTS

Localized flare-ups will continue to occur, as variants are outpacing vaccination rates and continue to emerge—and we have to give science time to catch up.

## WE HAVE TO STAY VIGILANT, *BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO STAY HOME.* SOME ANSWERS TO FREQUENT QUESTIONS IN THE NOW NORMAL, FROM EUROFINS EXPERTS:

### **Q: How long should we continue to test now that there are vaccines?**

A: As long as COVID-19 continues to be a problem, which medical science indicates will be far into the foreseeable future. Variants are fast outpacing vaccinations, and current vaccines are only expected to be effective for about six months.

Of particular concern in the coming months, as vaccine effectiveness begins to wane, is what level of antibodies you need in your system to keep from getting infected and/or getting sick.

Eurofins currently provides quantitative finger prick antibody testing to determine your level of immunity. Monitoring antibody levels will become increasingly important later in the year, especially around six months after peak vaccination, which was in March.

### **Q: If you have been fully vaccinated, can you still get COVID?**

A: Yes. You might not get sick, but you can be infected, experience symptoms, and—most important—*infect others.*



### **Q: Is contact tracing still occurring for those who test positive?**

A: It depends on local public health systems—nationally it's very inconsistent.



**Q: If I have COVID symptoms, should I get tested even if I have been vaccinated?**

A: Yes—again, if you are infected, you can get sick or infect others. You also could have a variant that isn't covered by your vaccine, or your immunity may be wearing off, depending on when you were vaccinated.

It's like the flu: The medical standard of care for the flu for years has been to test for the flu when symptoms are present, even if you have been vaccinated. It's a matter of public health.

**Q: If I test positive, do I still need to quarantine and for how long, even if I have been vaccinated?**

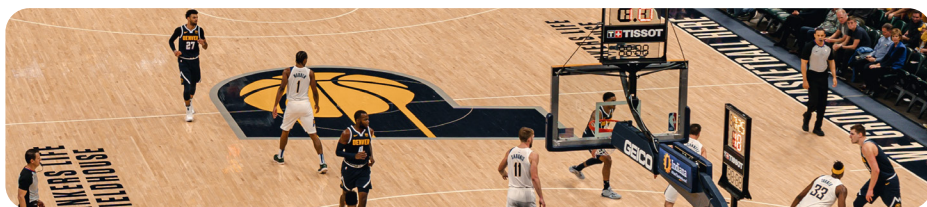
A: No matter what, if you are infected you can infect others, so yes. However, you can retest in 10 days and if you test negative then, you can leave quarantine.

**Q: How would I use testing in my workplace, school, or other location as we reopen and people return more fully?**

A: Eurofins can partner with you to provide unique, customized testing programs for virtually any business or site.

**Q: Most of my employees will remain remote, or only come in once or twice per week. Why would I need testing?**

A: As long as people have contact with people on your site, there will continue to be a need for some kind of testing and monitoring.



**Q: Are there businesses/industries that should test more than others now that many places are reopening?**

A: Each and every industry, business, school, or other unique site should consider its unique “people dynamics” to determine the testing program that best ensures COVID negative.

**Q: Will this cost continue to be covered or subsidized by governments if vaccines are more prevalent now?**

A: Businesses might have to take on more of the cost of ensuring COVID negative status continues, but think of it like any other health and safety goal, such as “100 days without injury on a job site.” 100 days without COVID-19 infection on site builds trust, insures against liability, and protects your brand.

**THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO ENSURE COVID NEGATIVE STATUS CONTINUES ON SITE:**

***PROVIDE SOME KIND OF TESTING PROGRAM***

- Eurofins testing strategies are designed to anticipate real-world daily lives, and protect us all from potential virus transmission in current and ongoing conditions.
- Eurofins offers solutions tailored to fit individual, organizational, and government needs.
- Eurofins conducted more than 24 million COVID-19 PCR tests in its laboratories between March 2020 and May 2021.

**Eurofins is Testing for Life. Let's find your solution, and keep thriving.**

**WWW.EUROFINSSAFERATWORK.COM | SAFERATWORK@EUROFINSUS.COM**