



Teams Live information session today and invitation link to the info of 30th of April

We are organising a Teams Live information session at 2 p.m. today, Thursday 23rd of April. Click the link below to participate. During the information session, we will go over the current status of the coronavirus pandemic and talk about the ways in which Mehiläinen has prepared for this situation and made changes to its service production. The other link is for the recording of next week's Teams Live at 2 p.m. on 30 April.

[Teams Live on 23rd of April at 2pm](#)

[Teams Live on 30th of April at 2pm](#)

Specifications to covid-19 tests at Mehiläinen

We want to provide everyone with the best and safest possible care during the coronavirus outbreak. Previously, we have informed you about various measures relating to the tests and this message summarises the key facts about the nose and throat sample (PCR) and antibody tests, from the viewpoint of occupational health.

PCR TESTS

For patients showing symptoms, **the primary coronavirus test is the analysis of a nose and throat sample (PCR)**, required for a COVID-19 diagnosis. In assessing the need for testing, we comply with the new instructions by [the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare THL](#) recommending *taking a sample for a COVID-19 analysis from all individuals who experience symptoms associated with a coronavirus infection or who are suspected to be exposed to a coronavirus infection on the basis of a doctor's assessment. Non-targeted analysis of people without symptoms is not purposeful, however.*

If a coronavirus infection is suspected, the patient's primary point of contact for referral to a coronavirus test is Digital Clinic. The need for a referral can now be assessed also in a remote appointment with your designated occupational health physician. Appointment bookings are to be made in compliance with the instructions issued by the employer. Patients showing symptoms of respiratory tract infections, and requiring a doctor's examination, are referred to Mehiläinen's separate respiratory tract infection clinics. A doctor will always assess the patient's situation, and need for testing, and give instructions about protection and avoiding contacts. Sampling is centralised at our drive-in testing stations, but if needed, it is possible at the respiratory tract infection clinics as well.

A positive result from the PCR test is a highly reliable indicator of infection. A negative result does not, however, exclude the infection, as the presence of the virus on the mucous membranes is highly individual and also the success of the sampling may influence the result. This means that for example if an exposed person is placed in quarantine, the quarantine cannot be lifted due to a negative result.

The price of the PCR test is EUR 249, including sampling and analysis. As we mentioned in the service message of [13 March](#), **the PCR test is included in all occupational health agreements covering medical care services**, unless specifically prohibited by the company. It is still possible to issue a prohibition by sending an email to [tt-sopimustiimi\(a\)mehilainen.fi](mailto:tt-sopimustiimi(a)mehilainen.fi).

Testing of groups showing no symptoms is not included in the occupational health agreements.

If your company requires targeted testing of individuals showing no symptoms, as specified by the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, a separate agreement is required with your occupational health team.

[Additional information about the tests and test locations is available on our website.](#)

ANTIBODY TESTS

In the coronavirus antibody tests, blood is examined for antibodies against the new coronavirus COVID-19 which is the cause of the pandemic. The antibody test can help verify that an asymptomatic person who has recovered from a disease that fits the description of COVID-19 has contracted a coronavirus infection. However, no information is available at present of the duration or strength of potential immunity provided by the COVID-19 infection.

Antibody tests are performed mainly on persons showing no symptoms, based on a doctor's assessment. Based on a doctor's assessment, the antibody test can be performed together with the PCR test on patients who have been ill for a long time and still show symptoms. At present, referrals are only available through Digital Clinic or a respiratory tract infection clinic. All positive antibody test results are confirmed with additional methods to increase the reliability of the test.

Even if the patient has contracted the virus, the antibody test result may be negative if it is performed too soon, or the body has not produced measurable quantities of antibodies. Because the duration of immunity is unknown, the antibody test does not affect the required protective and safety measures. At this stage of the epidemic, antibody tests are not suitable for screening large groups of people.

The price of the antibody test is EUR 59 (incl. the test to confirm a positive result). **Antibody tests are not included in occupational health agreements.** If you wish to add the option of antibody testing to your agreement, please send your request to [tt-sopimustiimi\(a\)mehilainen.fi](mailto:tt-sopimustiimi(a)mehilainen.fi).

[Additional information about antibody testing is available in Finnish on our website.](#)

For updated information and instructions, see our website

Our website contains comprehensive information relating to the epidemic. For example, we are frequently updating [the frequently asked questions](#) section and introducing new services and articles to support your employees. You can contact us by email at yrityspaattajat@mehilainen.fi

For more information, instructions and advice on how to protect your staff from the coronavirus, please contact your occupational health nurses and physicians. The Finnish Institute of Occupational Health website also has a set of guidelines for workplaces. As the current situation is changing rapidly, we recommend you actively follow the information released by the authorities, [the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare](#), your local public sector health care provider and [Mehiläinen](#).

**Kind regards,
Mehiläinen Working Life Services**

*this is a service message to our corporate customers