

Post-Lab Focus Questions

1. The samples that you added to the microplate strip contain many proteins and may or may not contain the disease antigen. What happened to the proteins in the plastic well if the sample contained the antigen? What if it did not contain the antigen?
2. Why did you need to wash the wells after every step?
3. When you added primary antibody to the wells, what happened if your sample contained the antigen? What if it did not contain the antigen?
4. When you added secondary antibody to the wells, what happened if your sample contained the antigen? What if it did not contain the antigen?
5. If the sample gave a negative result for the disease-causing agent, does this mean that you do not have the disease? What reasons could there be for a negative result when you actually do have the disease?
6. Why did you assay your samples in triplicate?
7. What antibody-based tests can you buy at your local pharmacy?
8. If you tested positive for disease exposure, did you have direct contact with one of the original infected students? If not, what conclusions can you reach about transmissibility of disease in a population?