

Key scientific terms

Antibodies

- An important element of the immune system. Antibodies, which are found in the blood, detect the presence of a virus and latch on to the infected cell, flagging it so other elements of the immune system can kick in to destroy it.



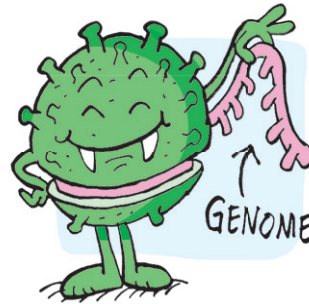
Serology tests

- These detect the presence of virus-fighting antibodies in the body.



Genome

- A virus' unique genome serves as a "fingerprint" to distinguish it from other viruses. The genome of Sars-CoV-2 – the virus which causes Covid-19 – comprises a single-strand of genetic material called RNA, which is made up of an "alphabet" of molecules known as nucleotides.



Polymerase chain reaction

- This refers to a molecular biology process which can help to determine if a sample contains any detectable genetic material of the coronavirus.

