COVID-19

Ohio | Department of Health

Over-the-Counter (OTC) COVID-19 Test Guidance

Background

Over-the-counter rapid antigen COVID-19 tests provide the ability for convenient testing at home. They have the advantage of providing rapid results – generally ranging from 10-20 minutes – allowing the individual to take immediate precautions to prevent transmission and minimize the spread of COVID-19.

Ohio has invested in rapid COVID-19 testing with a goal of using fast, free, and convenient testing to control the spread of COVID-19. The state is working with local health departments, public libraries, community health centers, and other community partners to make rapid tests available and accessible to Ohioans. All OTC COVID-19 rapid tests distributed by Ohio are authorized under emergency use authorization (EUA) by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA). Complete test information can be found on the FDA OTC COVID-19 Diagnostic Test site.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides information on COVID-19 testing, including when to test, types of tests available, specific information about self-tests, and how to interpret results.

Procedures for State Testing Partners

Distribution/Reporting:
- Each distribution site needs to have one or more representatives designated as administrators to record required information, distribute tests, and report to the state the number of tests distributed at that site weekly through an online portal.
- **The testing partner must ensure that each distribution is only reported once.** Partners are not required by the state to report any information about the individuals' receiving tests.
- Reporting site – https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/contact-us/binaxnow-reporting-form/
  Information required:
  - o Name and email address of individual reporting
  - o Number of tests distributed (this is the total number of tests handed out)
  - o Important note: **The state is not requiring sites to report test results as part of this process.**
- For Schools – Every district office and school building is available for selection in the reporting portal, and a district may choose to report at the district or building-level. Districts must select their reporting method, but also ensure that a distribution is only reported once.

Expiration Dates:
- Expiration dates must be observed, and tests removed from distribution inventory when appropriate.
- The FDA has made available on its website an expiration date lookup tool for all home test/OTC

COVID-19 tests that are EUA authorized. Details:
- Scroll down to view the complete list of products.
- Sites can select their specific test and within the "Expiration Date" column, click on **"Expiration Date: See link for list of updated expiration dates."**
- Sites can then locate their lot #(s) on the list provided and find their expiration date.

Using the Tests:
- Wash your hands before and after you collect a nasal specimen for your test.

- Read the complete manufacturer's instructions for use before using the test.
  - Instructions can be found on the FDA OTC COVID-19 Diagnostic Test site for each of the FDA authorized tests.
  - If you do not follow the manufacturer's instructions, your test result may be incorrect.
  - Self-Testing videos are available for the FDA-authorized self-tests.

- To use an at-home test, you will collect a nasal specimen and then test that specimen.