

Abbott BinaxNOW Ag Home Tests Q&A

Why is the state providing these tests?

The State has secured the purchase of at least 2 million tests that can be self-administered outside of a clinical setting. The new Abbott BinaxNOW Home Test can be provided to individuals for at-home use, and is packaged with a telehealth session to oversee test administration, including prescription writing and result reporting. The state's objective is to make rapid testing much more broadly accessible throughout the state.

What kind of test is being made available?

The 15-minute [BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card Home Test](#) has received FDA Emergency Use Authorization for at-home testing in collaboration with a telehealth session. Abbott has selected [eMed](#), a digital health solution, as its telehealth partner. This service for COVID-19 testing prescribes and allows the test to be done rapidly at home with virtual instruction and consultation. A trained telehealth professional guides those being tested through the at-home self-test via video call using the BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card Home Test and Abbott's complementary NAVICA mobile app to enable the testing process and display BinaxNOW COVID-19 test results.

What equipment/software does an individual need to perform the test?

- Windows or Mac/Apple laptop with a webcam (or a desktop computer with an adjustable/ moveable webcam), microphone, and speaker;
- An Apple phone/tablet or an Android phone/tablet, with the NAVICA app from Abbott downloaded;
- An email address; and
- An internet connection
- Note that at this time, a testing session can be completed end-to-end using a computer with webcam, a cell phone or other mobile device, or a combination of the two.
 - a. A testing session should be initiated by going to ohio.emed.com and selecting "Start Testing."
 - b. A NAVICA account can be created and results can be received and reviewed through the NAVICA app or by visiting www.mynavica.abbott.

How does a student or staff demonstrate a negative test result?

A test result will be reported to the NAVICA app, and will display the name of the person who took the test, the date the test was taken, and the test result. An individual who does not have access to a smart phone may also obtain a record of their test by logging into their NAVICA account at www.mynavica.abbott. Each school can decide how it wants to receive the results, but options include displaying the result directly from the NAVICA app, displaying a screenshot of the NAVICA pass, or providing an email from eMed with the test result.

How reliable are these tests?

The lab-based PCR tests remain the gold standard in terms of sensitivity of the tests. But the rapid antigen tests have the ability – with their scale, quick results, and lower cost – to be powerful tools in slowing the spread of COVID, by focusing on the period of time that an individual is most infectious and greater risk of spreading the disease. The BinaxNOW tests have proven extremely effective and easy to use.

Antigen tests are generally less sensitive than PCR-based methods, and their clinical performance depends on the circumstances in which they are used. The fact that antigen tests generally have lower sensitivity but consistently high specificity means there is some risk of false negatives with antigen tests, but generally not false positives when the test is administered according to the instructions. More recently, there has been more study of the use of antigen tests as screening tests for asymptomatic populations, including [this recent one from the CDC](#). Note that its conclusion, while recognizing the limitations of antigen tests, is that "Antigen tests can be an important tool in an overall community testing strategy to reduce transmission." Here is [another recent study](#) evaluating the use of antigen tests in asymptomatic populations.

How does a user get the test?

A user should start by creating a NAVICA account. This can be done on the NAVICA app or by visiting www.mynavica.abbott. **If the test is being used on a child, a parent should create an account and then create a Managed Profile for each child being tested.** An Ohioan can find sites that have tests available at ohio.emed.com, and can use their NAVICA ID to obtain the test from the distribution site they select. Before going to a distribution site, a user should call ahead to confirm hours and make sure the site has tests available for pickup.

How does a user get a test for a child or other dependent who doesn't have their own email address to create a NAVICA account?

In the NAVICA app or at www.mynavica.abbott, once a user has created their account, they can create Managed Profiles for children and other dependents who might not have a separate email address or are otherwise unable to create a separate NAVICA account. The account will display separate NAVICA IDs (used for obtaining a test from a distribution site) and NAVICA passes (used to show test results) for each profile on an account. When a user initiates a test through ohio.emed.com, they will be asked which person on the account is being tested, and the results will be reported for the appropriate user.

What if someone who wants to use the test doesn't have an internet connection or equipment to complete the telehealth session?

The BinaxNOW Home tests are intended to make decentralized, at-home use more accessible. But if a person (or group of people) lacks access to all the necessary resources, a school may create workarounds – e.g., centralized locations with computers and internet available to perform the telehealth.

What should an individual do if their telehealth session is interrupted before completion?

If a telehealth session is interrupted, the individual should immediately return to ohio.emed.com and select the option to begin a test and explain to a proctor that the prior session was interrupted. If the proctor determines that the session is unable to proceed, contact eMed support at (844) 943-0753 for assistance.

How are results reported?

eMed is responsible for reporting results. For the individual being tested, results are returned through their NAVICA account, either in the app or at www.mynavica.abbott, and the NAVICA pass can be used to demonstrate a test result to an employer, school, or other party. For public health reporting, eMed sends results through the electronic lab reporting system.

Can we skip the telehealth portion of the test and just have the distribution site also perform the test?

No, the Home test's [Emergency Use Authorization](#) from the FDA specifically states, "The BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card Home Test is to be performed only with the supervision of a telehealth proctor." Bypassing the telehealth portion of the test would also mean there would not be a prescription for the test to be administered, as the prescription specifically includes this aspect of the test. However, there are more appropriate, rapid antigen tests that can be administered at a distribution site that has a CLIA certification or waiver, can provide an order for the test, trained medical staff to administer and a mechanism for reporting the results of the test to the Ohio Department of Health. If appropriate, please contact the state testing team at TestingRequests@odh.ohio.gov to discuss these alternative options.

What if the results of my test or my pass are not available within the NAVICA app?

Call eMed Customer Support at (844) 943-0061.