

COVID-19 At-Home Testing Initiative

Background

The State of Ohio is aware of the need to find and deploy a simple way to carry out testing – a way that does not require medical personnel and/or large testing events. We have secured the purchase of 2 million tests in January 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 from eMed](#) to oversee test administration, ordering of tests, and result reporting.

As one primary use of these new test, the State wants to partner with local health departments (LHDs) to make them available in every Ohio county. In some cases, the LHD could be the distribution point, and in some cases you can help us find a better distribution point within the county. The objective is to make rapid testing much more broadly accessible throughout the state, to give LHDs discretion to address local needs, and to direct some for specific state-prioritized use cases (e.g., first responders).

Implementation

The State seeks guidance and direction from LHDs as to the best strategy in your community for distribution of the tests. We expect to begin deploying the week of Jan. 11. Based on discussion with the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners, we intend to allocate tests as follows:

- Initial allocation – Every LHD able to deploy tests immediately may request up to 2,000 tests for the initial allocation.
- Reallocations – Over the next few weeks, we will work with LHDs to disseminate these tests to every county. For those LHDs initially unable to deploy, we will work with you on the timing/volume/distribution point for your initial allocation. For all LHDs, as tests are distributed, the State will accept requests for additional tests and will accommodate the requests to the degree tests are available. It is our intention to continue making tests available, so tests should be used and not held in reserve.

Next Steps

In order to facilitate deployment of these tests as quickly as possible, please email the State testing team at TestingRequests@odh.ohio.gov and answer the following questions:

1. Is your LHD willing and able to be a distribution point for these at-home tests?
2. If not, are you able to help identify an appropriate distribution point in your jurisdiction?
3. If yes to either of the above, please send the following delivery information:
 - Name of LHD/Distribution Point
 - Delivery Address
 - (Any notes on delivery – specific entrance, hours of availability, etc.)*
 - Delivery Point of Contact
 - POC Phone Number and Email
4. How many tests are you requesting and generally how do you propose to use them?

Thank you for your partnership on expanding access to testing. We are excited to work with you on this initiative. Please contact Mark Hamlin (Mark.Hamlin@insurance.ohio.gov or 614-214-8748 with questions or feedback.