

Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests: Frequently Asked Questions

Partnership HealthPlan of California members can get up to 8 over-the-counter COVID-19 rapid antigen tests per 30 days at no cost from pharmacies that accept Medi-Cal. Find out more below.



What COVID-19 tests are covered?

Any FDA approved, over-the-counter COVID-19 rapid antigen test is covered. Please talk with your pharmacist to get an approved test kit.

Will I have to pay for my at-home COVID-19 tests?

No. If you get an at-home COVID-19 test from a pharmacy that accepts Medi-Cal, you should not be charged.

Where can I get an at-home COVID-19 test?

You can get an at-home COVID-19 test at no cost to you at any pharmacy that accepts Medi-Cal.

Can I just grab the test off the shelf and go to the cashier?

You must pick up the test through the pharmacy so they can bill your insurance.

Are there any limits to how many at-home COVID-19 tests I can get?

You may get up to 8 FDA-approved, over-the-counter COVID-19 tests per 30 days for each member in your household who has Medi-Cal. This limit can be increased if more tests are ordered or given to you by your medical provider. Your medical provider will need to submit a prior authorization to show why you need more than 8 tests per 30 days.

Are multiple pack tests counted as one test?

No. Multiple pack tests are counted by the number of tests in the packet. For example, if a test packet has two tests per packet, this counts as two tests.

Do I have to get all at-home COVID-19 tests at the same time?

No. The tests can be given at any time up to 8 tests per 30 days during the public health emergency.

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How long will I be able to get these tests?

You will be able to get these tests until the federal government ends the public health emergency, or until advised by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

If I do not get tests one month, can I get more the next month (like 16 tests in one month)?

No. The number of tests are a per 30 day basis and you cannot get more than 8 tests per 30 days.

Can I use these tests for my employer mandated testing?

No. These tests should not be used for employment purposes. Please ask your employer for its COVID-19 testing guidelines.

What if I cannot find an at-home COVID-19 test, and I need to be tested?

If there is shortage of at-home COVID-19 test at your pharmacy, you may call other local network pharmacies in your area to see if they have tests in stock. Medi-Cal Rx Pharmacy Locator: <https://med-calrx.dhcs.ca.gov/home/find-a-pharmacy>. You may also call your doctor's office to schedule an appointment.

As of January 19, 2022, you can order an over-the-counter COVID-19 rapid antigen test at covidtests.gov at no cost. If you need help placing an order, call the COVID-19 Vaccination Assistance Hotline at 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489).