



AMERICAN COLLEGE HEALTH ASSOCIATION
Campus COVID-19 Vaccination and Mitigation Initiative

SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN ACCESSING FREE OR LOW-COST AT-HOME COVID-19 TEST KITS

Updated September 8, 2022

Rapid at-home COVID-19 testing is one of several effective strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on campus when paired with clear directions about college resources and expectations for students who test positive. Students are advised to have rapid at-home COVID-19 tests on hand to use as needed.

For information about COVID-19 at-home tests, visit the FDA's [At-Home COVID-19 Diagnostic Tests: Frequently Asked Questions](#). For more on when to use at-home tests, see the [latest CDC self-testing guidance](#).

Where can students access free or low cost at-home COVID-19 tests?

Although the federal program providing [free at-home COVID-19 test kits](#) has been discontinued as of September 2, 2022, students still have options to secure free or low-cost at-home COVID-19 tests.

- Private health insurers are required to cover up to eight FDA-authorized COVID-19 at-home tests per member per month. Students who have private insurance plans should consult their insurance company to determine the most efficient way to access at-home tests. Students may be able to secure these tests through local or national pharmacy chains who will bill the students' insurance plan directly.
- State Medicaid programs are also required to cover FDA-authorized at-home COVID-19 tests; however, coverage rules may vary by state. We urge college personnel to educate students covered by Medicaid on how they can access free at-home COVID-19 tests in their state.
- Some [state](#) and local health departments continue to provide COVID-19 test kits for free. We urge college personnel to work collaboratively with state and local health departments to determine how students can access these resources.
- Community health centers and testing sites may also provide COVID-19 testing for free or at a low cost.

College administrators should also consider ensuring access to free or low-cost at-home COVID-19 tests to all students who need them, especially students who are underinsured or uninsured, as well as those who are at high risk of getting very sick from COVID-19.

Where should I direct students who wish to purchase at-home COVID-19 tests?

Students who wish to purchase at-home COVID-19 tests should do so directly from a trusted pharmacy or retailer. The tests should be labeled "FDA-authorized." A complete list of at-home COVID-19 tests that are FDA-authorized can be found [here](#).

If a student has at-home COVID-19 tests that are about to expire, what should they do?

Most COVID-19 home test kits have received expiration extensions from the FDA. To see if a manufacturer's COVID-19 test kit has an expiration extension, see the [List of Authorized At-Home OTC COVID-19 Diagnostic Tests](#).

How can I support students in learning to use these tests correctly?

Please share these video and print instructions for common at-home COVID-19 tests:

Binax [Video Instructions](#) [Print Instructions in Spanish and English](#)

iHealth [Video Instructions](#) [Print Instructions multiple languages](#)

Roche [Video Instructions](#) [Print Instructions in English](#)



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