

Test twice and reduce the spread of COVID-19

To continue to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the NIC community, the NIC Rebounds Team is strongly encouraging anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 to follow the CDC's recommendation to take another rapid antigen test before returning to work.

Experts, including those at the CDC, say that if a person takes a rapid test and tests positive for COVID-19 after five days of quarantine, they are still likely infectious.

Those who test positive using a rapid antigen test near the end of a five-day isolation period should continue to isolate until day 10, [says the CDC](#).

Rapid antigen tests, like the ones in boxes now available to NIC employees, provide results at home within 15 minutes, unlike the Vault saliva tests that must be sent by UPS to a lab.

Taken via nasal swab, rapid antigen tests are less likely to return a positive result once a person is no longer infectious, unlike the Vault-type tests with which an individual will generally test positive even though their viral load is no longer high enough for them to spread the virus.

Those who have tested positive and then test negative at the end of a five-day isolation period should wear a mask when around others until Day 10, according to the CDC.

Free rapid test kits at NIC

Boxes containing two rapid tests are available to be picked up by employees on the Coeur d'Alene campus in the Dean of Students office, SUB 200B or the HR office, Headwaters Complex, Building B.

Rapid test kit boxes are also available for employees at Parker Technical Education Center and the Workforce Training Center.

Employees are asked to pick up their box of rapid test kits before they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, when they should be isolating or in quarantine.

Symptomatic employees should not go to the rapid test kit pick-up locations. For employees experiencing symptoms, contact-less pickup can be arranged by calling HR and free Vault mail-in test kits remain available via contact-less pick up at the NIC mail/copy center (see link below).

Additional COVID-19 test information

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order four free at-home COVID-19 rapid antigen tests. [Place your order here](#).

Orders will usually ship in 7 to 12 days. These tests give results within 30 minutes (no lab drop-off required).

[Free Vault mail-in PCR test kits are also still available at NIC.](#)