

*City of Taunton
Office of the Mayor*



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O'Connell Announces Free COVID-19 Test Kits Available to High-Need City Residents

Taunton, MA... Today Mayor O'Connell announced the City of Taunton will be distributing free COVID-19 test kits to high-need Taunton residents. Last week, the Baker-Polito Administration announced plans to partner with local cities and towns to increase at-home access to COVID-19 test kits for Massachusetts residents.

The Department of Public Health has provided the City of Taunton with 15,570 over the counter at-home rapid antigen test kits. These tests will be made available for distribution to Taunton residents, with an emphasis on increasing access for individuals and families who are facing financial hardship and may otherwise have difficulty purchasing a test kit.

Mayor O'Connell is pleased with the state's efforts to help protect Taunton residents during the holiday season when COVID-19 transmission rates tend to increase. "Testing is a useful tool in stopping the spread of COVID-19. When residents know they have contracted COVID, they can take the appropriate steps to keep themselves and their families safe. At-home testing is easy and convenient. I am grateful to the Department of Public Health and our community partners who continue to work together to prioritize the health and safety of our City residents."

To qualify for a free kit, City residents must currently have COVID-19 symptoms, been directly exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19, or are living in a home with a COVID-positive individual. Please note individuals do not need to be tested if they are fully vaccinated and have been exposed to COVID-19 unless they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

In Taunton, test kits will be available through the organizations listed below. For more information, Taunton residents are encouraged to call the distributing organizations directly: Department of Human Services/Council on Aging: 508-821-1420 (for Taunton residents 60+)

Taunton Housing Authority: 508-823-6308 (for Taunton Housing Authority/Section 8 residents)

Manet Community Health Center: 508-822-5500 (for Taunton residents who qualify)

Boys and Girls Club: 508-824-4341 (for Taunton members only)

Our Daily Bread: 508-824-1788 (for Taunton residents who qualify)
Family Resource Center: 774-501-2633 (for Taunton residents who qualify)
Girls Inc of Taunton: 508-824-9511 (for Taunton residents who qualify)

Individuals who do not qualify for one of these test kits and find themselves in need of testing are encouraged to visit [mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov) or taunton-ma.gov for a list of testing sites or order a free kit online: https://www.ondemand.labcorp.com/at-home-test-kits/covid-19-test-home-collection-kit?fbclid=IwAR1XvysbCLzAaPfrlb4yUrVLr0nINt2FcY3tgyFtRTQrQor2s8q7v5A8y_8

For more information, please refer to the homepage of the City of Taunton website (taunton-ma.gov) or the City of Taunton Facebook page.

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