

COVID-19 FAQs
January 19, 2022

Q: Is there a chance that COVID-19 sick hours from the State will be reinstated? Staff are getting sicker and sicker at the moment and this is the best time for these individuals to use that incentive.

From the COVID-19 Response Team

A: For the time being, these hours have not been made available by the State or Federal governments. If these hours are reactivated, we will follow suit and inform all employees.

Q: Can employees get more at-home testing kits? It seems like they're all given to patients, but none really for the employees who take care of them.

From the COVID-19 Response Team

A: We are experiencing a shortage of the at-home test kits. Our Warehouse is doing everything it can to continue restocking and providing the kits to all sites. These test kits should also be distributed to staff for home usage. Please make them available for staff as well as patients. Two kits per staff member at a time.

Q: Is there Paid Time for COVID-19?

From the COVID-19 Response Team

A: This was already answered at the top.

Q: Any plans on opening the AltaMed Gym? If so, when?

From the COVID-19 Response Team

A: While we are in the midst of a COVID-19 surge, it would not be prudent to open our exercise facility. It will remain closed until determined to be safe enough to be opened. There is no clear timeline at this time.

Q: Does AltaMed have a workflow set up to give COVID-19 boosters to kids between 12 to 18? The latest self-attestation forms still have 18-years-old as the age cut-off.

From the COVID-19 Response Team

A: Boosters are available for kids 12 to 17 utilizing the Pfizer vaccine. In addition, third doses of Pfizer may be given to children with moderate to severe immune suppression 28 days following their initial series. Standing orders are available for nursing staff to give these vaccines without a provider order. The State may not have updated the latest self-attestation form. For now, do not use the attestation form for kids 12-17. Continue to use the attestation form for those 18 and over. Proceed with booster doses of kids 12-17 using the Pfizer vaccine without the attestation form. Our team will work on making an AltaMed version of the form including all appropriate ages to roll out at a later date. Please stay tuned for that. Please follow our standing orders for information on vaccination eligibility.

Q: What would be the expected time period for a patient to test negative after a positive COVID-19 test? For example: Test positive 12/26/21; continue to test positive as of 1/10/22 (approximately two weeks now)?

From the COVID-19 Response Team

A: People can test positive with COVID-19 PCR testing up until about 90 days from initial infection. Rapid testing, such as antigen testing, is more useful to determine infectivity in this situation and should stop being positive around day 7 to 10 following initial infection.