Arkansas Department of Health

4815 West Markham Street ● Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 ● Telephone (501) 661-2000
Governor Asa Hutchinson
José R. Romero, MD, Secretary of Health

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Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Antigen Cards Distribution Plan

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have been distributing Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Antigen (Ag) Cards. These are rapid, point-of-care (POC) diagnostic tests for COVID-19 that must be dispensed by a medical provider with prescriptive authority. HHS has sent some tests directly to certain locations including long-term care facilities. The rest are being shipped to each state for disbursement.

Starting next week the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) will be providing, on a one time basis, point of care COVID-19 Antigen test kits (ABBOTT BINAX Kits) to physician clinics, and other clinics across the state. **These tests are intended for diagnostic use.** These point of care tests are packaged 40 individual test kits in each box. We are allotting up to 5 boxes per clinic for this project (based on the number of clinics participating). If additional boxes are available based on the number of clinics wanting to participate, we will increase the number provided based on our current inventory.

The use of these kits is outlined below. Please use your BINAX Kits based on that guidance.

All kits will be sent to a central point of distribution (POD) within each hospital region. Clinics will be responsible for picking those kits up on the date and timeframe that will be provided once all orders have been compiled. These PODs will be coordinated and staffed by the ADH Regional Preparedness Coordinators. Please ensure that your clinic has the ability to pick up your supplies at the location and times provided once all orders are placed.

Individual clinics may work together with each other or with your county emergency managers, if they have availability, to coordinate a single pick up for your county. A list will be provided to each clinic in your county that is participating to help with this coordination should you choose to do so.

Once all orders are received and processed, we will provide to each clinic the date, times and location where your kits will be distributed.

We ask that while multiple physicians within a single clinic may receive this email correspondence, we request that only one order per clinic be made, and not individual orders by physician. Please coordinate this within your clinic prior to placing orders. Clinics with multiple physicians who are participating, may receive additional kits based on availability. This will be communicated directly with your clinic once allotments have been finalized.

What is the Abbott BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 test?

The test is a rapid antigen test, not a molecular (PCR) test. Each kit includes supplies (nasal swabs, a control swab, reagent, and test cards) to perform 40 tests. No instrument is needed. Per its Emergency Use Authorization, the BinaxNOW™ test is intended for the qualitative detection of antigen from COVID-19 in direct nasal swabs from people that present with symptoms of COVID-19 within the first seven days of symptom onset. Use of these tests should be reserved for instances where a positive result would direct immediate clinical decisions or infection control measures.

Why should we use this test?

This test allows for a rapid (within 15 minutes) results for symptomatic individuals. A quick positive test allows for more rapid medical intervention and may influence a person's behavior to immediately follow prevailing isolation guidelines.

Distribution priorities and how tests will be distributed

Since demand may exceed supply, ADH will prioritize facilities/clinics that serve high positivity rate geographies, populations at disproportionate risk, and/or where access to COVID-19 testing is otherwise limited. If you are a health care provider and agree to administer the BinaxNOW™ test to symptomatic priority populations, you can request a shipment of tests from ADH. The tests are provided at no cost to you. The testing supplies provided by the ADH under this program are provided "as is." Click here to submit your request for BinaxNOW™.

Requirements of sites administering BinaxNOW™ tests

- The facility/clinic/provider has either a valid Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) certificate of waiver, certificate of compliance, or certificate of accreditation. Click here for more information on obtaining a CLIA waiver.

- The facility/clinic/provider is not currently receiving BinaxNOW™ tests directly from the federal government and will let ADH know if it starts to receive them directly from the federal government.

- The facility/clinic/provider can appropriately manage biohazard waste disposal.

- The facility/clinic has a provider able to order and administer BinaxNOW™ tests (MD, PA, NP), per the emergency use authorization. The facility/clinic/provider will administer the kits to patients in a manner consistent with all manufacturer guidance, ADH Health Alerts, and other relevant state and federal guidelines.

- The facility must complete the BinaxNOW™ online training modules to ensure the test is used in a manner consistent with the manufacturer's instructions. That training is available at BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 AG Card and Navica™ App Set-Up and Training. https://www.globalpointofcare.abbott/en/support/product-installation-training/navica-

brand/navica-binaxnow-ag-training.html.

- The facility must report BinaxNOW™ test results and other required data to ADH and follow data reporting requirements and instructions, as provided by ADH.

- The facility will support publicity of test availability at your site(s) to key stakeholder groups that work with priority populations, such as local schools.

Reporting data to ADH

All COVID-19 test results performed using BinaxNOW™ inside your facility must be reported within 24 hours of results
Please go to the following link to register for antigen reporting portal:

https://adhredcap.arkansas.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=LM79CNJJFH

What is the appropriate billing?

Providers **cannot bill patients directly** for the actual COVID-19 test if the BinaxNOW antigen test cards were provided free to the providers. However, providers can bill the appropriate Evaluation and Management (E&M) code for evaluation and management of an individual that may result in a test using a BinaxNOW test card and the appropriate specimen collection code. As per information from Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield, when a COVID-19 test is performed for diagnostic purposes (not surveillance or screening), then 99211 should be billed in a non-facility (office) setting for test administration. This code can only be billed once per member per date of service regardless of the number of tests performed. Additional guidance about ICD coding is attached. CMS released information to help states, nursing facilities, and other providers better understand the sources of Medicare and Medicaid coverage and payment for COVID-19 testing, including a flow chart detailing testing coverage for nursing facility residents.

After reading through this plan, and if your clinic is interested in this project, please complete the order form below by the close of business **January 27, 2021**

Click here to participate in the BINAX Project

For specific questions regarding this project please email: adh.testingmaterials@arkansas.gov