



EOHHS will be making a distribution of rapid COVID-19 self-tests to congregate care settings. The availability of these tests does not impact surveillance testing, but can enhance visitor, employee, and residence testing in accordance with guidance detailed below.

For people who test positive, free treatments for COVID-19 are available, including a new telehealth option to get access to antiviral treatments. Treatments can help prevent hospitalization and reduce your chance for severe disease.

To learn more about treatments, visit: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/treatments-for-covid-19>

Here's what you need to know:

Summary

- Starting the week of June 6th, Color will automatically ship you free rapid antigen COVID-19 tests.
- No action is needed on your part to get the tests.
- Tests may be used to test symptomatic individuals, people involved in an outbreak, site visitors and/or others in advance of indoor gatherings.
- These rapid tests are over the counter (OTC) tests which do not get reported in the Color software.
- The availability of these rapid tests does not impact surveillance testing. Continue testing all staff weekly, using Color's lab-based tests.
- You may direct people who test positive to <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/treatments-for-covid-19> and <http://mass.gov/covidtelehealth> to see if they qualify for treatment.
- Expiration dates have been extended by 3 months beyond what is printed on the kits, to at least September 2022. Check <https://ihealthlabs.com/pages/news> for further updates.

Protocol

- Weekly surveillance testing of all staff, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, should continue to be performed using the lab-based tests from Color. The availability of rapid tests does not impact surveillance testing.
- Rapid tests are available to enhance visitor and employee testing in accordance with CDC self-testing guidance. Use the rapid tests to get quick results for people who have COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed or potentially exposed to an individual with COVID-19, in case of an outbreak.
- Agencies should not mandate self-testing as a prerequisite for visitation or participation in events. If you are distributing rapid tests to visitors, provide them with the mass.gov and CDC links below.
- For more information on self-tests, please visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/using-a-covid-19-self-test> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/self-testing.html>
Note that you should always follow the latest guidance as required by your setting.



Type of Test

- For this program, we will be supplying you with the iHealth over-the-counter (OTC) rapid antigen COVID-19 test.
- Since the test result is read by the person taking the test, no CLIA waiver is needed.
- Tests come two per kit. There are 90 kits / 180 tests per carton.
- Expiration dates have been extended by 3 months beyond what is printed on the kits, to at least September 2022. Check <https://ihealthlabs.com/pages/news> for further updates.

Fulfillment

- Color will automatically ship a minimum of 1 carton of rapid tests to each test site, or 4 tests for each staff member and resident, whichever is greater, based on availability.
- At present, this is a one-time distribution of tests. There is no option to order more, but you will be notified if this changes.

Other Notes: Return Samples to 31 Smith Place

- As you continue your lab-based surveillance testing programs, please remember: All samples that are returned via FedEx need to have a shipping label addressed to 31 Smith Place in Cambridge. We still see a few misdirected boxes occasionally, so please forward this reminder. You can submit a support request if you need new labels.
- We have seen occasional delays with samples dropped off at FedEx collection boxes inside Walgreens drugstores. Please choose alternate FedEx locations, courier or dropbox options instead, when possible.

Questions?

Contact your organizational lead, head to Color's site setup guide, submit a support request, or join Zoom office hours on Tuesdays in May/June @ 11AM ET.