

BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Test Kits

The state has begun receiving shipments of the **BinaxNOW rapid antigen test kits** from the federal government. **These tests are useful for quickly identifying COVID-positives among symptomatic persons.** While some of you have reached out indicating interest, we wanted to ensure all of you are aware of the steps you can take to begin using these tests. Many additional questions you may have will be answered at the DPH-facilitated training session on Thursday at 9am.

Schools/districts will generally wish to take one of two paths to using BinaxNOW:

1. Identify a third party that can serve as a testing partner and is capable of satisfying the requirements enumerated below, or
2. Test in-house using school nurses or other healthcare staff and meet the below requirements internally.

Any school that chooses to utilize a testing partner would refer symptomatic students, teachers, or staff to that partner's location to get tested. The partner may also offer the BinaxNOW tests to their other patients or community members. Examples of testing partners include, but are not limited to, FQHCs, school-based health centers, urgent care centers, hospitals, or doctor's offices. Any school that chooses to test in-house would not be expected to offer tests to the general community, as we do not wish to encourage non-school populations to come to the school to obtain a test. **We strongly recommend working with your local health department to determine which option is best for your school / district and to identify a testing partner if necessary.**

As a reminder, **these tests are to be used only for symptomatic persons in accordance with DPH guidance.** DPH also recommends confirming a negative antigen test result in a symptomatic person with a follow-up PCR test. It is also critically important to use these tests correctly and follow all manufacturer instructions. On November 3, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a [Letter to Clinical Laboratory Staff and Health Care Providers](#) to alert labs and providers that false positive results can occur with antigen tests, including when users do not follow the instructions for use of antigen tests for the rapid detection of SARS-CoV-2. The specifics of how and when to use these tests are covered in the training discussed below. In order for a facility to begin using these kits, it must hold a CLIA certificate of waiver (or higher certificate, such as PPMP) and have a medical provider capable of ordering the tests. If you cannot meet these requirements, you can work with a testing partner who can administer the tests for you. Specifically, the following requirements must be satisfied before using the BinaxNOW kits:

1. **Attend the remaining training session held by state DPH;** You can join the Microsoft Teams meeting using the link / phone number below:
 - a. Thursday, 11/12, 9:00 a.m.: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) or dial [+1 860-840-2075](#), conference ID 115 023 773#
2. **Obtain a CLIA Certificate of Waiver (or higher certificate, such as PPMP)**
 - a. The DPH Facility Licensing & Investigations Section (FLIS) team can help you with this process; please contact DPH.FLISLab@ct.gov for CLIA questions
3. **Submit an attestation form to DPH for usage of BinaxNOW kits**
 - a. The form can be found [here](#), and must be submitted to DPH.FLISLab@ct.gov
4. **Set up electronic reporting of BOTH positive AND negative results to DPH**
 - a. If you have not already, please work with Nancy Barrett at: Nancy.L.Barrett@ct.gov to set up this process

The above steps are **not a comprehensive list** – other steps, such as performing quality control tests, are necessary and are covered in the training sessions held by state DPH.

Once requirements 1-3 above have been met, you can place requests for shipment of BinaxNOW tests at this link: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Pages/Requests-for-Test-Supplies>. Please note that you are ordering the number of tests, which come in kits of 40 tests each. Therefore, please place a request for a number of tests that is a multiple of 40 (e.g., 40, 80, 120, 160, etc.). Once you place an order through that link, a member of the DPH will approve your request if all prerequisites have been completed, and then the National Guard will deliver kits to your facility (generally within 24-48 hours after approval).

Please contact Nick Peranzi, Coronavirus Support Associate, Office of the Governor, at: Nick.Peranzi@ct.gov with any questions.