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Sent: 1/3/2022 10:14:51 AM
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Subject: Fwd: COVID-19 Tests and PPE available to order

Hi all, and happy new year!Â Sharing the below info about free PPE and COVID tests available to homeless service agencies.

Emily Ball
Homeless Services System Performance Lead
City of Asheville
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From: **SVC_DHHS.ncesg** <ncesg@dhhs.nc.gov>
Date: Tue, Dec 21, 2021 at 2:47 PM
Subject: COVID-19 Tests and PPE available to order
To: SVC_DHHS.ncesg <ncesg@dhhs.nc.gov>

Good Afternoon,

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As discussed on todayâ€™s office hours, purchasing COVID-19 tests is not an eligible expense under ESG or ESG-CV.Â However, tests are available from another source. Please see below for information on ordering COVID-19 tests and PPE.

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Take care,

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The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services can provide homeless service agencies with COVID-19 tests and testing supplies to support diagnostic or screening testing efforts. There are two types of COVID-19 tests â€” Pixel by Labcorp COVID-19 Tests and Abbott BinaxNOW Antigen Tests -- available to agencies. Each test has different requirements.

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Most homeless service organizations will be able to order and administer Pixel COVID-19 tests. Only homeless service organizations that have a CLIA Waiver and a licensed supervising clinician available to oversee testing can order and administer the Abbott BinaxNOW Antigen Tests. Please read all information on each test below before ordering.

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Pixel by Labcorp COVID-19 Tests

Pixel tests are at-home testing kits. Homeless Service Organizations can order Pixel tests to administer to clients and staff over the age of 2 who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or believe they may have been exposed.Â

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When an organization wants to use the test, they must register the test on behalf of the client or staff, have the individual being tested collect the sample, then use the included FedEx overnight shipping envelope to return the sample to the laboratory for results. You will receive an email when the results are ready.Â Results will be available online in 1 â€” 2 days. More information on this process can be found here: <https://www.pixel.labcorp.com/nc>

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Requirements to Receive and Administer

- Internet access or hotspot (to register kit)
- Email Address (to view results)
 - Note: If a client does not have an email address, a case manager or organization email address may be used with client consent.

Note: Pixel tests do not require organizations to have a CLIA Waiver or licensed supervising clinician.

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Pixel by Labcorp COVID-19 Test Order Form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe5TxDXOLlSnjnRFYC9_7BFD2Jc9tZ6I0VbWRzCyCA4dUoPpw/closedform

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Abbott BinaxNOW Antigen Tests

Antigen tests are rapid, point-of-care test that can quickly identify and respond to cases of COVID-19. NCDHHS currently has a supply of Abbott BinaxNOW Ag Cards, which may be requested to support diagnostic or screening testing.

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The Abbott BinaxNOW tests will provide test results within 15 minutes. Antigen tests may require a confirmatory PCR for some test results. Please review the COVID-19 Antigen Test Flowchart to understand how to best use these tests and when a confirmatory test may be needed

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Requirements

Entities interested in receiving tests from the state must meet ALL the following requirements:

- **CLIA Certificate** -- Obtain a CLIA certificate of waiver or partner with an entity with certificate.

A CLIA certificate of waiver allows non-laboratory facilities to perform FDA-waived tests, such as antigen tests for COVID-19. Requirements for the certificate are to complete the application linked above, pay the \$180 certification fee (valid for 2 years) and follow the manufacturer’s instructions for the test that you are performing. The application process usually takes about 5 days.

- **Physician Order** -- Secure a signed physician order or elect to use the Statewide Order

For most entities, the statewide order is a sufficient and easy way to meet this request.

- **PPE** -- Maintain an adequate supply of PPE to perform tests

Personnel collecting specimens or within 6 feet of individuals suspected to have COVID-19, a surgical or procedural mask, eye protection, gloves and gown. Gloves should be changed between handling of specimens.

- **Medical Waste** -- Adhere to standards to properly handle and dispose of medical waste

Other entities conducting antigen tests have collaborated with local hospitals, used Bio Hazard bags/containers or contracted with SteriCycle or another medical waste pick up service

- **Training** -- Ensure all testing personnel have completed BinaxNOW training

Testing personnel do not need to be clinical or medical professionals. The required Abbott training videos (Modules 1-4) take only 10 mins to complete. Modules 5-6 (9 mins) are optional.

- **Licensed Supervising Clinician** -- Verify that entity has a licensed clinician available to supervise testing performed by unlicensed personnel
- **Reporting** -- Verify ability to complete DHHS reporting requirements

Options for electronic reporting can be found at Getting Started with Automated Reporting: NC DHHS COVID-19. These choices include the COVID-19 Laboratory Data Automation (CLDA) process or an online tool, eCATR Patient Test Results (PTR). NC DHHS provides weekly trainings for the eCATR PTR online reporting tool. Those interested in attending should email our team at NCDHHS_Antigen@dhhs.nc.gov.

- **Quarantine & Isolation Support** -- Entities will provide necessary quarantine and isolation guidance for all individuals with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 or who are close contacts of a COVID-19 case

Antigen Test Request process:

All entities that meet the above requirements may apply to apply to request tests via the [request form linked here.](#)

PPE and Critical Supplies

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services can also provision PPE and critical supplies to homeless service organization at no cost to the organization.

PPE and Critical Supplies Order Form: <https://nc.readyop.com/fs/4dj0/d947>

Form Instructions

1. County: If a CoC covers more than one county, please put the county in which the CoC lead agency is located.
2. Type of Partner: Select “Community Based Organization”
3. Name of Initiative: Select “Continuum of Care”
4. Justification of Need for Supplies: This can be a short request. Please note the names of the organizations to which you will be distributing.