



**California COVID-19 Testing Task Force
Frequently Asked Questions
Updated May 19, 2020**

GENERAL TESTING

What are the requirements for testing?

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recently announced expanded testing guidelines, prioritized in two levels, and outlined [here](#).

How can you find access to testing?

In addition to testing availability at your medical provider's office, you may search the [state's interactive map](#) that has access to hundreds of testing sites statewide. On May 12, Governor Newsom signed an executive order allowing pharmacists to administer COVID-19 tests, so some pharmacies may soon offer testing as well.

How is the state overcoming the challenge of getting supplies such as swabs, reagents, and RNA?

The Testing Task Force has worked to increase supplies for testing sites and laboratories across the state, which has led to additional testing capacity. In April, Governor Newsom announced that California would receive additional testing supplies from the federal government. In addition, the state's Testing Task Force recently partnered with OptumServe to launch 80 community testing sites across the state. OptumServe provides all the personal protective equipment (PPE) and testing supplies at those sites.

What is the state's testing goal?

The Testing Task Force laid out a goal to process at least 10,000 tests per day by April 10 and 25,000 tests per day by April 30. We've surpassed those initial goals and are working toward 60,000 tests per day by the end of May. The new OptumServe community sites, in addition to new sites launched by Verily, has increased testing by at least 10,500 per day. The state will continue to establish testing partnerships of this kind.

The Governor announced three specific collaborations as part of the Testing Task Force: Collaboration with the University of California, San Diego and University of California, Davis to create the first of five hubs for high throughput testing, collaboration with Stanford Medicine as they launch the first serology test invented in California and collaboration with Abbott Laboratories to deploy the first rapid, point-of-care test across 13 health care delivery systems and 75 sites.

Will children be tested prior to school entry?

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recently announced expanded testing guidelines, prioritized in two levels, and outlined [here](#). As the school year approaches, the state, in collaboration with the Department of Education, will continue to evaluate testing options.



Will Skilled Nursing Facilities be mandated to test their residents and employees?

Los Angeles, San Francisco and Alameda are putting mandatory programs in place and the state is working with them on that. The Testing Task Force is also building out a statewide plan, which will be announced soon.

TESTING SUPPLIES

Where should providers or hospitals turn if they need supplies?

For more information about the state's supply distribution model, please refer to the [Supply Distribution Guidelines](#) on the Testing Task Force website.

Once the Testing Task Force determines which providers will receive available supplies, when do those providers receive notification of their incoming shipment? Do providers get notified of what the state is sending to allow them to make preparations, or do they only find out when the shipment arrives?

The Testing Task Force does not determine which providers receive available supplies. For more information about the state's supply distribution model, please refer to the [Supply Distribution Guidelines](#) on the Testing Task Force website.

COST OF TESTING

What type of guidance can the State provide to local health departments regarding pop-up testing sites that are charging for testing?

The state agencies that regulate health care in California have mandated that all full-service insurance plans (including Medi-Cal) waive copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles for medically necessary screening and testing for COVID-19. This includes emergency room, urgent care, or provider office visits when the purpose of the visit is to be screened and tested for COVID-19. This information is available [online](#). In addition to testing available at your medical provider's office, you may also search the [state's interactive map](#) of community testing sites that provide free, confidential testing.

SEROLOGY TESTING

While serological tests are becoming more widely available, there are important considerations for how serological tests should, and should not, be used. A clear understanding of the limitations of current serological tests is critical for appropriate interpretation of test results. No serologic tests are currently approved by the FDA for diagnosis of COVID-19. Detection of viral RNA remains the preferred test for diagnosis of active COVID19 in individual patients. Given our current understanding of COVID-19 serology, more information has been outlined [here](#)