Partnering with the State of California’s Testing Task Force to Provide COVID-19 Antigen Testing

In an effort to improve the equitable distribution of testing resources to communities facing disproportionate effects of COVID-19, the State of California has established a comprehensive testing program that provides rapid, point-of-care antigen tests with confirmatory PCR testing. Confirmatory PCR tests are available through the state’s Valencia Branch Laboratory.

Antigen Testing

Antigen tests are anterior nasal swabs which can be self-administered

Antigen tests are point-of-care tests that are processed on site

Results are available almost immediately (within 15-30 minutes)

People with positive test results or symptomatic people with negative test results will have to do a confirmatory PCR test

When to use

Antigen testing is appropriate when testing people with symptoms or for people without symptoms when they are tested regularly at least twice per week (e.g. employees, students)

People should be tested 2x per week or more often when using antigen tests

5-Step Checklist to Conduct Antigen Testing

- **Before testing**
  - 1. Identify testing need and submit application (incl. choosing IT platform for reporting purposes and developing plans for confirmatory PCR testing)
  - 2. Onboard to chosen IT platform
  - 3. Prepare logistics for testing (e.g., set up facility, identify / recruit staff, procure PPE and supplies)
  - 4. Train staff, sign Agreement, and order antigen tests (incl. ordering PCR test kits if using VBL for confirmatory PCR)¹

- **Testing day**
  - 5. Begin testing and deliver antigen test results (including confirmatory PCR tests if needed)

Next Steps

- Access the antigen testing playbook for detailed site setup here
- Apply to become an antigen testing partner here
- Review antigen testing training materials here
- Take the antigen testing site competency quiz here

¹. Note: Signing Agreement and receiving CLIA number are contingent on successful completion of training

Still have questions? Please reach out to the Testing Task Force at Testing.Taskforce@state.ca.gov

Source: California COVID-19 Testing Task Force