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**
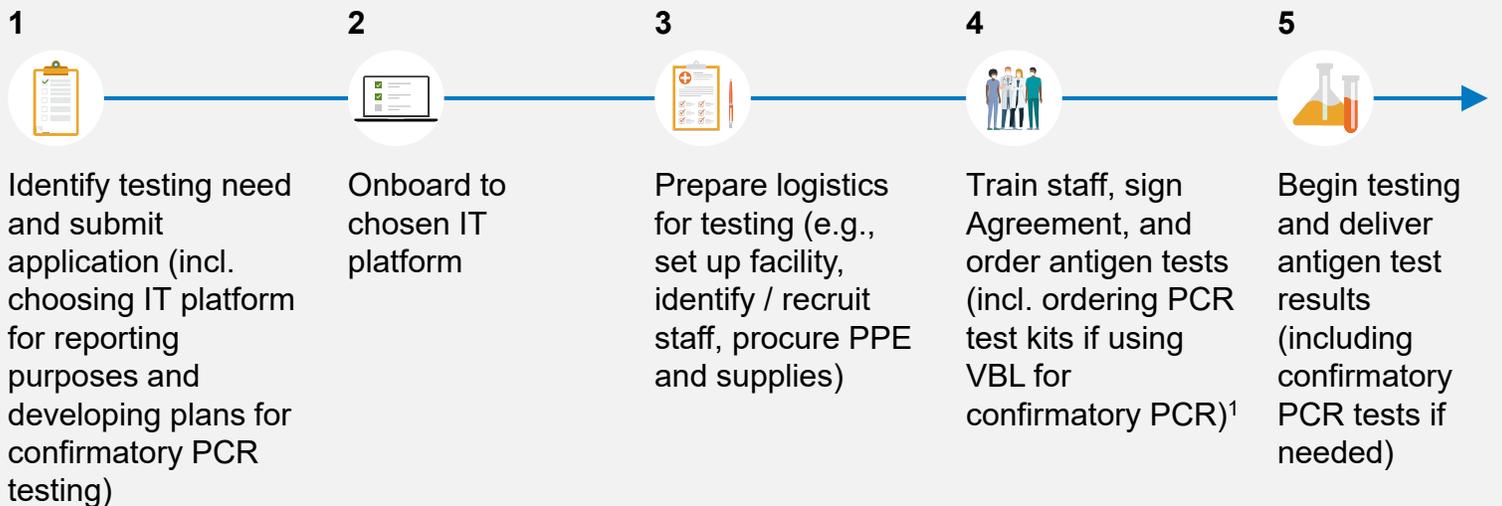
When to use

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 ———————————————————————————————————— **Testing day** —

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]

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

Source: California COVID-19 Testing Task Force

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