Rapid at-home COVID-19 test kits

Frequently Asked Questions

Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD), in conjunction with Maryland Department of Health and Enoch Pratt Free Library, are distributing rapid COVID-19 test kits to the community. More information on self-testing can be found here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/self-testing.html

What kinds of test kits are available at Enoch Pratt Free Libraries?

The test kits are Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen test kits. The tests can be taken at home by individuals.

How long does it take to get the test results?

Results take around 15 minutes and available at home.

Are the results accurate?

Rapid antigen tests can be less accurate than PCR tests (that are sent to a lab), but are still useful, especially for people who have symptoms that could be COVID-19.

Who should use self-tests?

Self-tests may be used if you have COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. You can also use the self-test before gathering indoors with others, especially before gathering with unvaccinated children, older individuals, those who are immunocompromised, or at risk of severe disease.

When will test kits be available?

Test kits are available on a first come first served basis. BCHD will supply the libraries with new test kits as soon as they are available.

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What if I want a PCR test or what if currently rapid test supplies are limited?

Testing locations can be found at these two websites: https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/symptoms-testing

https://coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/where-get-tested-covid-19-baltimore-city

Where else can I find rapid Ag test kits?

Other locations of test kits can be listed on the BCHD website: https://coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/where-get-tested-covid-19-baltimore-city

What do I do if I test positive?

If you test positive, ISOLATE at home away from others. Tell your healthcare provider and stay in contact with them during your illness. Monitor your symptoms and if you have emergency warning signs, seek emergency medical care. Avoid contact with other household members and wear a mask when around others. More information can be found here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html

What if I have a question about COVID or a test result

You can call the **Baltimore City Health Department COVID Call Center at 443-984-8650**.