



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.

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Benita McLarin, FACHE
DIRECTOR

Matthew Willis, MD, MPH
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

Lisa M. Santora, MD, MPH
DEPUTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

3240 Kerner Boulevard
San Rafael, CA 94901
415 473 4163 T
415 473 2326 F
415 473 3232 TTY
marinhhs.org/public-health

Public Health Update

COVID-19 Testing

Background

Since the beginning of the pandemic, access to COVID-19 testing has been a significant challenge. On March 11, 2020, Marin County Public Health [launched](#) the State's first "drive through" COVID-19 testing clinic. Since then, Marin County has increased daily testing capacity from 150 tests per day to more than 3,000 tests per day, not including rapid antigen self-testing.

During the Omicron surge, Marin County residents struggled to secure access to COVID-19 antigen self-test kits. While the Biden Administration announced plans to extend assistance offered through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Marin County Public Health is no longer expected to receive emergency COVID-19 testing supplies.

The new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 Community levels framework emphasizes the critical importance of ensuring equitable access to testing, including point of care (POC) and self-testing. Marin County Public Health will prioritize access to testing for vulnerable populations.

Recently, COVID-19 testing supply has increased dramatically. Private insurance and Medicaid now cover rapid at-home tests for free, and Medicare will fully cover these at-home tests starting this spring. Moving forward, all residents should have a plan for rapid testing (i.e., having home tests or access to testing).

Guidance

1. Stay up to date on Marin COVID testing resources by visiting <https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/testing>.
2. Marin residents should secure COVID-19 antigen self-test kits.
 - a. Order self-test kits from the federal government at covidtests.gov. Every home in the U.S. is eligible to receive 4 boxes. If you received only 2 boxes with your first order, you should order an additional 2 boxes.
 - b. Buy a self-test kit online or at local retailers.
 - i. [Costco](#)
 - ii. [CVS](#)
 - iii. [Discount Safety Gear](#)
 - iv. [Rite-Aid](#)
 - v. [Target](#)
 - vi. [Walgreens](#)
 - vii. [Walmart](#)

3. Submit a claim to your health insurance company for reimbursement.
 - a. Kaiser members: [Submit a claim](#) to get reimbursed for tests purchased on or after January 15, 2022.
 - b. Medi-Cal members: Call Medi-Cal Rx Call Center at (800) 977-2273, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, or 711 for TTY, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit <http://www.partnershiphp.org/Members/Medi-Cal/Pages/COVID-19.aspx> for more information.
 - c. Blue Shield: [Submit a claim](#) to get reimbursed for tests purchased on or after January 1, 2022.
 - d. Medicare: You cannot submit a claim for reimbursement at this time. Stay up to date at <https://www.cms.gov/how-to-get-your-at-home-OTC-COVID-19-test-for-free>
4. See if your healthcare provider has self-test kits. Some Marin healthcare providers are distributing free self-test kits.
5. Marin agencies, community-based organizations, schools, employers, and other entities should procure self-test kits and/or POC tests as appropriate.
 - a. Partner with the State of California to offer COVID-19 testing. Learn more at <https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/get-started/>
 - b. Procure test kits. Vendors offering COVID-19 testing supplies for purchase include:
 - i. [CovCare](#)
 - ii. [Fisher Scientific](#)
 - iii. [Henry Schein Medical](#)
 - iv. mdsupplies.com
 - v. [Medex Supply](#)
 - vi. [MedicalMega.com](#)
 - vii. [Medline.com | Medline Industries, Inc](#)
 - viii. [Peach Medical Sourcing](#)
6. Marin healthcare providers should optimize POC testing for their patients.
 - a. Provide CLIA-waived POC testing at your practice. Learn more at [COVID-19 testing guide](#) (e.g., Abbott IDNow, Cepheid GeneXpert® test).