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OPERATIONAL BULLETIN

Bulletin #	Title		Date Issued
#2022-09-02-01	Maine DHHS COVID-19 Antigen Test Kit Ordering		September 2, 2022
Superseded	Released By:	Source:	Pages
NA	Maine EMS	Maine CDC	1
Approved By:	J. Sam Hurley, MPH, EMPS, NRP (Maine EMS Director)		

Since late 2020, Maine's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has distributed more than two million point of care (POC) COVID-19 rapid antigen tests to facilities serving high-risk populations, or to settings where access to testing is limited. This distribution is in addition to the antigen testing options provided to schools, drive-up observed testing at Walgreens, as well as many other state-supported testing efforts.

The Maine CDC's Public Health Emergency Preparedness warehouse has served as a storage and distribution point for POC antigen tests. Through the fall, the warehouse will transition test distribution to a more streamlined operational model. Entities that have historically received tests from Maine CDC may order tests **through September 9, 2022**. Those tests will then be distributed throughout September.

There will also be two additional, limited windows for POC antigen test requests. Between 9/28-9/30 and then 10/19-10/21, eligible entities can again request tests, which will be shipped following the ordering window. After these windows, Maine DHHS will maintain a small inventory of POC rapid antigen tests for outbreak support, as deemed appropriate through the Maine CDC Epidemiology Outbreak team.

To receive tests, entities must still meet the core requirements outlined since program inception and noted on the order page through the link below. These tests are intended to support screening of symptomatic individuals. Because of the volume of requests anticipated, DHHS encourages entities to submit one request rather than multiple ones. In addition, Maine DHHS may not be able to fulfill all requests based on available inventory, the recent volume of tests provided to an entity, or if an alternate source of tests is available.

Please note that Maine DHHS will maintain testing options through other established programs, including Project ACT – which distributes kits of five tests to households – as well as drive-up testing at many Walgreens sites.

Tests can be requested through the following link: <https://forms.office.com/g/ebn175YVWf>.

As we shift into the current phase of the pandemic, Maine DHHS remains grateful to our many partners throughout the state that have supported the health and safety of Maine people through COVID-19 testing efforts.

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