



Health Care Provider Guidance for At-Home Antigen Test Kit Results

Michigan.gov/Coronavirus

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At-home antigen tests are one of several SARS-CoV-2 testing options. Members of the public may purchase these tests or may receive them for free through a public health program. This guidance document will help health care providers assist their patients with interpreting test results and when to do additional testing.

You can find a list of FDA's approved COVID-19 antigen tests at <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-emergency-use-authorizations-medical-devices/in-vitro-diagnostics-euas-antigen-diagnostic-tests-sars-cov-2>

Discussing at-home test results with the patient

At-home testing kits may advise patients to contact their health care provider if they have questions about testing and to report the results of their tests. This document provides guidance on how to advise patients on their positive, negative, as well as error, canceled or invalid results:

Positive Results:

- Results of at-home tests are not required to be reported to public health or the patient's provider.
- MDHHS is not currently recommending that positive antigen results be confirmed via PCR unless specifically requested by the patient's healthcare provider or local health department.
- Encourage patients to report their positive result to any congregate setting where they may have been exposed or where they may have exposed others – these would include healthcare settings, long-term care facilities, schools, camps or correctional facilities.
- Ask the patient about their current symptoms.
 - If the patient is symptomatic:
 - Assess the severity of the patient's symptoms and counsel them about whether they should seek medical attention immediately or when they should consider seeking medical attention. Patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 who are at high risk of disease progression should be evaluated for COVID-19 therapeutics. More information can be found [here](#)
 - Recommend the patient stay home and avoid contact with other household members who live with them. The patient should isolate away from others for a total of 5 days after onset date. Recommend they wear a well-fitting

mask that covers their mouth and nose, and practice frequent hand washing. When soap and water are not available, suggest the use of a hand sanitizer with 60% or higher of alcohol.

- On day five:
 - if the patient has been afebrile for 24 hours (without fever reducing medication) and their symptoms are resolving, they can discontinue isolation, but should wear a well-fitting mask when around others for an additional five days.
 - If still febrile or symptoms are not resolving, the patient should continue to isolate for the full 10 days. If the patient is severely ill or is immunocompromised, they may need to isolate for up to 20 days.
- If the patient develops symptoms after the positive test, the isolation period must start over based on the day of symptom onset.
- If the patient is asymptomatic:
 - Advise the patient to isolate away from others. If asymptomatic five days after the positive test, the patient can stop isolating as long as they wear a well-fitting mask for an additional five days when around others (including household members).
- For all patients with a positive result, regardless of symptoms:
 - Recommend that the patient informs anyone they had been in contact with during their infectious period (two days before symptom onset (or two days before their positive test if asymptomatic) until the end of the isolation period) about their positive results.
 - Patients may use the webpage <https://tellyourcontacts.org/> to notify contacts anonymously. Patients can learn more about what to tell their contacts at www.michigan.gov/containcovid.
 - Provide patient with the latest quarantine recommendations: www.michigan.gov/containcovid.

	Who is Impacted	Public Health Recommendations
Isolation Has COVID-19	Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 and/or displays COVID-19 symptoms (without an alternate diagnosis or negative COVID-19 test) regardless of vaccination status.	 Isolate at home for 5 days; and  If symptoms have improved or no symptoms developed, may leave isolation after day 5 and wear a well-fitted mask, for 5 more days (ending after day 10).* <i>If positive with no symptoms, monitor for symptoms for 10 days as well.</i> 
Quarantine Exposed to COVID-19	Personal or household contact , regardless of vaccination status, exposed to someone with COVID-19 (see definition below).	 Monitor symptoms for 10 days.  Wear a mask around others for 10 days after exposure.**  Test 3-7 days after exposure or if symptoms develop.  Avoid unmasked activities or activities with higher risk of exposing vulnerable individuals.***
	Other exposure (from community, social, work setting).	 Monitor symptoms for 10 days.  Test if symptoms develop.  Consider wearing a mask around others for 10 days after exposure; at a minimum, mask in settings with higher risk of exposing vulnerable individuals.***

* If a mask cannot be worn, recommend 10 days of home isolation.
** If a mask cannot be worn, individual should home quarantine for 10 days. A Test to Stay protocol may also be developed in partnership between school and local health department.
*** Activities with immunocompromised or other high-risk individuals, social/recreational activities in congregate settings.
Personal/household contacts include individuals who share living spaces, including bedrooms, bathrooms, living room and kitchens. It also includes those who live together, sleep over, carpool or have direct exposure to respiratory secretions from a positive individual. This would include exposure in childcare settings for those under 2 years of age.

 Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

- Additional considerations:
 - If the patient has any [risk factors](#) or starts to develop more severe illness, they should be instructed to seek additional medical care. There are treatments that the patient **may** qualify for that could reduce the risk of severe illness. More outpatients are being treated now with [COVID therapeutics](#) authorized for patients at risk of being hospitalized.

Negative Results:

- If clinical suspicion is high for COVID-19, recommend confirmatory testing.
- Asymptomatic patients who are exposed should follow [quarantine guidance](#) based on their vaccination status. Depending on the test date, re-testing at a later date may be indicated.
- Symptomatic patients may benefit from confirmatory testing. Recommend staying home and staying away from others while experiencing symptoms. Health care providers may recommend the patient continue to isolate for 5-10 days after onset and continue mask wearing, depending on clinical course.
- If results from subsequent testing are positive, see above for positive result recommendations.

Error, Canceled or Invalid Results:

- Ask the patient about how they administered their test.
 - Counsel on the appropriate methods if it appears the test was not done correctly; encourage them to repeat the test with the correct procedure.
 - Or suggest the patient try a different at-home test or get tested at another site. Testing sites can be located through the [MDHHS COVID-19 Testing Website](#).

- If they are symptomatic:
 - Recommend the patient go to a [testing site for a another \(PCR\) COVID-19 test.](#)
 - Recommend the patient stay home and avoid contact with other household members who live with them. Recommend they wear a mask that covers their mouth and nose and practice frequent hand washing. When soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer with 60% or higher of alcohol.
 - Counsel them about communicating with the testing facility where they are going that they are symptomatic and were unable to complete an at-home test.

For more information

- [MDHHS Antigen Test FAQ](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control Self-Testing Guidance](#)