

# Special Event Rapid Test Kit Distribution Requests

## Program Information:

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) aims to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by promoting access to COVID-19 testing services across the city. To increase the availability of free rapid testing following large events and gatherings, PDPH has procured supplies of at-home test kits for distribution to event attendees through the **Special Event Rapid Test Kit Distribution Requests** program. Event organizers and venues must apply at least two weeks prior to the event using [this form](#). Events that present a high risk for transmission and include populations at high risk for COVID-19 infection will be prioritized. [For more information on staying safe from COVID-19, visit our website.](#)

## Purpose

When gathering in large groups for events, such as community gatherings, festivals, and other celebrations, individuals should try to reduce their risk of contracting COVID-19 and exposing others. PDPH strongly recommends that gatherings and events be held outdoors whenever possible to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. For events held indoors, it is strongly recommended that attendees wear masks as able and get tested for COVID-19 before and after the event to minimize the risk of further exposures. Through the provision of at-home rapid antigen test kits to event organizers, PDPH aims to supply event attendees with test kits to test themselves twice. Individuals may choose to use the tests to test before the event and after the event, or twice 3-5 days following the event, with the tests taken at least 24 hours apart. If an individual develops symptoms, they should test at that time. The purpose of this program is to increase COVID-19 testing access to individuals attending an event where COVID-19 transmission is likely, particularly if the event serves populations that are at high risk for severe COVID-19 infection and in areas with limited access to healthcare and COVID-19 vaccination and testing services. (Note: while COVID-19 testing is an important way to slow transmission, no test is perfect and individuals should remain home if they have [symptoms](#).)

## Event Qualifications

Event organizers in Philadelphia are encouraged to apply for a supply of test kits for attendees. Priority is given to events that:

- Are hosted by and/or include communities that have historically had less access to healthcare resources, including areas with lower vaccination rates, higher case rates, and limited testing options or healthcare services (refer to the City's COVID-19 dashboard [here](#))
- Include a high number of attendees who are at higher risk for severe COVID-19 infection (refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance [here](#))
- Present a high risk for COVID-19 transmission, particularly if held indoors and with a large number of individuals

Examples of events may include community festivals, graduations, funeral gatherings and end of life celebrations, and weddings, among others.

## Requirements

If the request is approved, event organizers must:

- Efficiently distribute test kits to attendees
- Follow safety standards, storage requirements, and track expiration dates while storing test kits

- Provide instructions to recipients on how to use the test kits and what to do if a test result is positive. (Printed copies will be available when picking up the supply of test kits)

### Types of COVID-19 Tests

PDPH has procured a limited supply of at-home test kits for distribution. This is a rapid antigen COVID-19 test, and results are typically produced within 15 to 20 minutes. Additional details pertaining to these tests will be provided upon request approval. (Note: these test kits are only authorized for at-home use with a self-collected nasal swab directly from individuals aged 14 years and older or with adult-collected nasal samples directly from individuals aged 2 years or older.)

### Use of Test Kits

Each attendee should receive two tests that can be used before or after the event. If they are both used after the event, they should be used 3-5 days after the event and be taken at least 24 hours apart or whenever the attendee has symptoms. For test kits that only contain one test per box, each attendee should receive two boxes.

### Methods for Test Kit Distribution

Event organizers that are approved and receive test kits may determine the best method for distribution to event attendees. Examples may include using staff to handout the test kits as attendees are entering or exiting the event space, including test kits in parting gifts or goodie bags, and leaving test kits at each attendee's chair, among others.

### Result Reporting

Individuals are **not** required to report their at-home COVID-19 test results to the event organizers or the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. If individuals have questions or concerns regarding their test results or isolation and quarantine guidance, we recommend that they call PDPH's COVID-19 Call Center at 215-685-5488. Medications are available that can decrease an individual's risk of being hospitalized or dying if they test positive for COVID-19. Individuals who test positive should call their healthcare provider to discuss what treatment is best for them.

### Test Kit Pick Up

Event organizers are required to pick up test kits from a Center City location. Additional instructions for pickup will be provided via email once the application form has been reviewed and approved.

### Receiving Additional Test Kits

Each approved event will receive a **one time supply** of rapid test kits. You may apply for other events in the future.

### What if my event is not approved to receive test kits?

Unfortunately, the Health Department's supply of rapid test kits is limited, and all events will not receive a supply of test kits. Event organizers may consider purchasing their own supply of at-home test kits to distribute, if able, or require attendees be tested for COVID-19 before the event.

### I am interested, what next?

Thank you for your interest in distributing COVID-19 rapid test kits to the attendees of your event! Please complete the [application form](#) and ensure that the responses you provide are accurate and up to date. Requests should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event date. If approved, a member of our team will be in touch via email.