

# COVID-19 Public Request Test Kit Distribution Program

## Program Information:

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) aims to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 testing services across the city. To increase the availability of free rapid testing in the community, PDPH has procured additional supplies of at-home test kits for distribution to residents through **Community-Based Organizations** and for distribution to event attendees of **Special Events**.

### Purpose

The purpose of this program is to improve COVID-19 testing access across Philadelphia, particularly among populations in areas with limited access to healthcare and COVID-19 vaccination and testing services.

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. 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](#).)

### Qualifying Organizations & Event Qualifications

Organizations in Philadelphia with established roots in Philadelphia communities are strongly encouraged to apply to participate in the CBO Rapid Test Kit Distribution program. Priority is given to organizations that:

- Serve residents in low-resourced neighborhoods including areas with low vaccination rates, high case rates, and limited testing options or healthcare services (refer to the City's COVID-19 dashboard [here](#))

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.
- 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.

### Program Requirements

Organizations selected to serve as distribution partners must agree to the following requirements. Organizations must:

- Efficiently distribute test kits to Philadelphia residents in communities with populations at higher risk of COVID-19. Once received, residents may distribute the test kits at their own discretion.

- Provide instructions to recipients on how to use the test kits and what to do if a test result is positive.

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.

### 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.)

### Methods for Test Kit Distribution

Qualified organizations that are approved and receive test kits may determine the best method for distribution to community members. Examples may include door-to-door canvassing, special test kit giveaway events, religious services, and typical organizational programming, among others. Use and/or distribution of PDPH-supplied test kits among organization employees or screening of persons to participate in organization programs is strictly prohibited.

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.

### Use of Test Kits

Each guest 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.

### Reporting

Individuals are **not** required to report their at-home COVID-19 test results to community organizations, 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

Organizations are required to pick up test kits from a South Philadelphia location. Additional instructions for pickup will be provided via email once an organization's request has been reviewed and approved.

I am interested, what's next?

Thank you for your interest in distributing COVID-19 rapid test kits to your Philadelphia community! Please complete the [application form](#) and ensure that the responses you provide are accurate and up to date. If eligible and selected, a member of our team will be in touch via email within the next few days.

**Note: Submission of this application does not grant immediate approval to receive test kits. All requests will be reviewed and assessed for eligibility.**