



HOW TO GET A COVID-19 TEST

There are many ways to get a COVID-19 test in LA County

FREE TESTING

Starting November 20, every U.S. household can again place an order to receive four more free COVID-19 rapid tests delivered directly to their home. Visit covid.gov/tests.

If you have health insurance, the best option is to contact your doctor or health plan to get tested. Doctors and health plans are responsible for providing free COVID-19 testing to patients assigned to them.

If your employer or school requires a test, go through your workplace or school to get tested. They may offer free tests.

If you do not have health insurance, don't worry. There are many ways to get free tests in LA County.

Visit a testing site

County-run facilities



- If you don't have health insurance, you can get a free COVID-19 test at a Public Health Center Nurse Only Clinic regardless of your immigration status. If you have insurance, you will need to provide insurance information.
- Testing is available for children of all ages.
- PCR and antigen tests are offered.
- For locations and hours, visit ph.lacounty.gov/chs/NurseClinic.pdf (Spanish).

Health center or pharmacy



Visit the HHS [Community-Based Testing Sites for COVID-19](https://www.hhs.gov/communities/testing-sites) webpage to find low or no-cost testing.

- If you don't have health insurance but have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone who has recently tested positive for COVID-19, find a no-cost testing location at testinglocator.cdc.gov.
- If you have insurance, you may need to provide insurance information.
 - If you are unable or unwilling to provide insurance information, some sites may charge a sliding scale fee.

Many pharmacies offer free COVID-19 tests. Visit their website or call to check if they require an appointment or charge fees. For information on independent pharmacies, visit doineedacovid19test.com.

Get free test kits

With these [self-tests](#), you collect the sample and do the test yourself. If the test is past its expiration date, it may still be good to use, [learn more](#).



By mail from Public Health - for people who are age 65+ or unable to leave home

People who live in LA County who are age 65+ or unable to leave home can [request](#) two free tests. The tests are shipped within 5 business days.



At a Public Health Multi-Service Vaccination Site.

For hours and locations, visit ph.lacounty.gov/vaccinepods.



At a local library

- At all City of Los Angeles libraries. Visit lapl.org/branches.
- At all Los Angeles County libraries and bookmobiles. Visit lacountylibrary.org/antigen-tests.
- At other select [Community Library Locations](#).



In your community

Many food banks, senior centers, and other local organizations offer free test kits for pick-up.



At a pharmacy with your Medi-Cal card

Get the Medi-Cal card(s) for each person in your family. Show the card(s) to the pharmacist at the counter where prescriptions are dropped off. You can ask for 8 free at-home COVID-19 tests for each person each month. Select Medicare Advantage plans will also provide access to free at-home COVID-19 tests, contact your provider for more information.



Using other health insurance

As of November 11, 2023, many people with a health plan **regulated by California** are still able to get up to 8 at-home tests per month for each person on the plan. There are several ways to get tests using health insurance including:

- Call your health plan or visit their website to see if you can get free test kits. Note that you may be charged cost-sharing for tests received from an out-of-network provider.
- If you are eligible for free tests, find out how to get them. Health plans vary – some offer free tests by mail or from a pharmacy. For other plans, you buy the tests and submit your receipt to get paid back for all or some of the cost.

For more information, view the [CMS Waivers, Flexibilities, and the End of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#) FAQs.

Contact your doctor or health plan



If you have insurance, your health insurer is required to cover the entire cost of testing if a doctor orders the test. You do not need to have symptoms to request a test.

Insurance companies may **not** cover COVID-19 testing if done as part of an employee return-to-work program. If your employer requires a test, go through your job.

TESTS FOR CHILDREN

- If your child has symptoms, it is best to get a test from their doctor or local health center. If you need help finding a doctor, call 2-1-1 or visit 211LA. You can also find a health center near you at HRSA.gov.
- Many County-sponsored sites test children of any age. But check before you go.
- The age limit at different pharmacies vary: [Quest Diagnostics](#) test ages 2 and up, [CVS Health](#) and [Walgreens](#) test ages 3 and up. For independent pharmacies, visit doineedacovid19test.com.
- If you plan to use an antigen test, check the box for the age limit.