Recently, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) began distribution of Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Antigen (Ag) Cards. These are rapid, point-of-care (POC) diagnostic tests for COVID-19 that must be dispensed by a medical provider with prescriptive authority. HHS sent some tests directly to certain locations including long-term care facilities. The rest are being shipped to each state for disbursement. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is working through the state’s Unified Command to distribute tests to stakeholders. This document describes testing priority groups, requirements to use the BinaxNOW test, and additional references.

**Priority Groups Identified in Virginia**

- **Vulnerable populations**: Low income, people of color, uninsured/underinsured, individuals with disabilities or access and functional needs, limited access to care (rural residents, etc.)
- **Individuals at higher risk of illness or death** from COVID-19 due to age, medical conditions, etc.
- **Residents and staff of congregate care settings**: Skilled nursing and assisted living facilities, behavioral health facilities, correctional institutions, etc.
- **Students, staff and faculty of educational institutions**: Child care, pre K – grade 12, colleges and universities
- **People involved in areas of critical infrastructure** important to the state’s recovery and reopening.

**Requirements for Receiving Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Cards**

- A CLIA certificate of accreditation or CLIA certificate of waiver for the facility providing the test. If unsure of whether your facility has such a certificate, please contact clialab@vdh.virginia.gov.
- All test results, positive and negative, must be reported to VDH within 24 hours through a reporting portal for point-of-care (POC) COVID-19 tests.
- Patients cannot be not charged for the test, but the testing entity may charge an administrative fee.
- Test operators must receive appropriate BinaxNOW training and document proficiency.
  - To schedule a training by an Abbott representative, please contact Ms. Gail Ryan at Gail.Ryan@abbott.com.

**Resources**


For questions or more information, please contact VDH at antigeninfo@vdh.virginia.gov.