



# Interim Guidance for Using and Requesting Antigen Tests in High-Density Critical Infrastructure and Workplaces (April 20, 2021)

## Overview

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) is provisioning rapid, point-of-care antigen testing supplies to support testing efforts for high-density critical infrastructure and workplaces to quickly identify and respond to cases of COVID-19. NCDHHS currently has a supply of [Abbott BinaxNOW Ag Cards](#), which any food processing, manufacturing or other high-density workplaces may request to support diagnostic testing or regular routine screening of employees.

The Abbott BinaxNOW tests will provide test results within 15 minutes. Employers should not charge for the test. Antigen tests may require a confirmatory PCR for some test results. Please review the [COVID-19 Antigen Test Flowchart](#) to understand how to best use these tests and when a confirmatory test may be needed. Employers can refer employees requiring confirmatory PCR testing to their primary care provider or NCDHHS's [Find My Testing Place](#).

## Types of Testing

The below are approved use cases for antigen tests in these settings.

- **Diagnostic testing** for employees and / or visitors who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 while at work or have recent known close contact to a person with COVID-19
- **Screening testing** for employees on a regular, routine basis (e.g., weekly)

## Requirements

Facilities interested in receiving tests from the state must meet ALL of the following requirements:

- **CLIA Certificate** – Obtain a [CLIA certificate of waiver](#) or partner with an entity with a certificate. *A CLIA certificate of waiver allows non-laboratory facilities to perform FDA-waived tests, such as antigen tests for COVID-19. Requirements for the certificate are to complete the application linked above, pay the \$85 certification fee (valid for 2 years) and follow the manufacturer's instructions for the test that you are performing. The application process usually takes about 5 days.*
- **Physician Order** – Secure a signed physician order or elect to use the [Statewide Order](#). *For most facilities, the statewide order is a sufficient and easy way to meet this request.*
- **PPE** – Maintain an [adequate supply](#) of PPE to perform tests. *Personnel collecting specimens or within 6 feet of individuals suspected to have COVID-19, should wear a surgical or procedural mask, eye protection, gloves and gown. Gloves should be changed between handling of specimens.*

## NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- **Medical Waste** – Adhere to standards to properly handle and dispose of [medical waste](#). *Other facilities conducting antigen tests have collaborated with local hospitals, used Bio Hazard bags/containers or contracted with SteriCycle or another medical waste pick up service.*
- **Training** – Ensure all testing personnel have completed [BinaxNOW](#) training. *Testing personnel do not need to be clinical or medical professionals. The required Abbott training videos (Modules 1-4) take only 10 mins to complete. Modules 5-6 (9 mins) are optional.*
- **Reporting** – Verify ability to complete NCDHHS [reporting requirements](#). *Options for electronic reporting can be found at [Getting Started with Automated Reporting: NCDHHS COVID-19](#). Choices best suited for workplaces are the [COVID-19 Laboratory Data Automation \(“CLDA”\) process](#) or an online tool, [eCATR Patient Test Results \(PTR\)](#). NCDHHS provides weekly trainings for the eCATR PTR online reporting tool. Those interested in attending should email our team at [NCDHHS\\_Antigen@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:NCDHHS_Antigen@dhhs.nc.gov).*
- **Quarantine & Isolation Support** – Facilities will provide employees with necessary [quarantine and isolation guidance](#) for all individuals with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 or who are close contacts of a COVID-19 case.

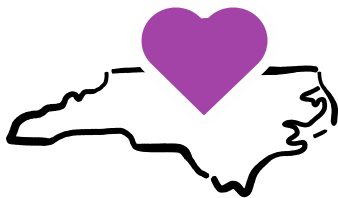
### Request process

All facilities that meet the above requirements may apply to request antigen tests via the [Antigen Test Request Form](#).

Our NCDHHS Antigen Team will review requests on a case-by-case basis. The point-of-contact provided in your request will be contacted within 3-5 business days on the status of your request. Please note that due to anticipated high volume of submissions, request responses may be delayed but be assured that our team is working diligently to process all requests.

### Resources

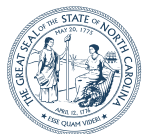
- For more information on antigen testing, please email [NCDHHS\\_Antigen@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:NCDHHS_Antigen@dhhs.nc.gov).
- For general COVID-19 response guidance, please see the [NCDHHS COVID-19 Guidance for Workers of Farms, Meat Plants and Construction Sites](#) and [COVID-19 Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#).



**#StayStrongNC**

**Staying apart brings us together.  
Protect your family and neighbors.**

**Learn more at [nc.gov/covid19](https://nc.gov/covid19).**



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES