

General

Q1. What is the difference between the over the-counter tests (OTC tests) and proctored home tests (Home tests) we had been receiving?

There are three critical differences between the Home tests and OTC tests:

1. The OTC tests do not require a telehealth session; they are conducted at home and are for personal use.
2. The OTC tests do not produce a documented result that can be used for travel, to return or stay in school, or be released from quarantine in Ohio.
3. There are two OTC tests in each test kit.

Q2. What if a customer needs a documented result for travel, to return or stay in school, or be released from quarantine in Ohio?

Library systems are able to obtain a limited number of Home tests that do produce a documented result. If a library system chooses not to provide Home tests or is out of stock, customers may visit the state's rapid testing website (www.coronavirus.ohio.gov/rapidtest) to find other options.

Please note: All K-12 schools in Ohio have access to free Home tests that they can provide to families who need a test to return or stay in school, and the state will continue to communicate this to schools.

Q3. Why is the state changing to the over-the-counter tests?

Throughout the pandemic, the state has been continuously evaluating testing options in an effort to match the right test with the population that needs testing. As over-the-counter tests have become more available in recent months, it has become clear that these tests can meet the needs of many people who need testing in the community. For example, since October 1, the state has provided more than 650,000 tests to libraries and other testing partners throughout the state. During the same period, approximately 150,000 tests were administered by the telehealth provider eMed. We believe that many tests are seeded in the community and have not yet been used, but clearly there is a significant number that have been used without the telehealth session. Making the OTC tests available for community use allows the state to a) increase our overall testing supply to ensure that we have enough to meet the needs throughout the state, b) ensure that populations who need documented test results – primarily schools and higher education – have access to the proctored tests that produce them, and c) responsibly manage the resources that have been provided to the state for testing.

Q4. Does the state have enough tests to satisfy the evolving demands for community testing?

We intend to continue to purchase tests and make them widely available throughout the state. In order to manage supplies among multiple stakeholders and ensure that tests are available for the state's core uses, we will continue to impose inventory controls that help

us to get tests shipped quickly and to ensure we can provide tests to partners across the state. Accordingly, we encourage library systems to impose a per person or per household limit on the number of tests they provide.

Q5. What do we do with any Home tests that reach their expiration date?

We are awaiting further guidance from the manufacturer on whether or not the expiration dates of Home tests will be extended again. Until more information is available, please do not destroy tests that reach their expiration date. We will update you and our website (www.coronavirus.ohio.gov/rapidtest) with information as soon as it becomes available.

Schools

Q6. What if the schools in my area do not have home tests to provide families?

All K-12 schools in Ohio have access to free Home tests from the state and are able to request tests from the state by contacting us at TestingRequests@odh.ohio.gov. The testing team is working closely with the Ohio Department of Education to ensure schools are aware of their ability to request tests and the importance of managing their testing needs.

Employers

Q7. What if an employer requests tests to provide to their symptomatic employees or to support the regular screening testing of its unvaccinated staff?

Tests may not be directly provided to employers (public or private) for testing of their employees. We have updated our website (www.coronavirus.ohio.gov/rapidtest) to provide guidance for businesses and other organizations that want to initiate testing programs, with guidance on questions like how often to test, how to choose the appropriate test for their organization, how to project costs, and where to purchase tests.