



INFORMATIONAL MEMO

TITLE:	FEDERAL COVID-19 TESTING RESOURCE FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR HAVE LOW VISION
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EFFECTIVE DATE:	JUNE 30, 2022
DIVISION AND OFFICE:	STRATEGIC OUTCOMES DIVISION OFFICE OF COMMUNITY LIVING
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Purpose and Audience:

The purpose of this Informational Memo is to inform all long-term services and supports stakeholders of a newly announced initiative by the Biden-Harris Administration to provide at-home COVID-19 rapid antigen tests that are accessible to people who are blind or have low vision.

Information:

From the Administration for Community Living (ACL) on June 23, 2022:

Testing is a critical part of the fight against COVID-19, but some people who are blind or have low vision face barriers using many of the COVID-19 tests on the market.

On June 23, 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration launched a new initiative to expand the availability of testing options that are more accessible for people who are blind or have low vision. This initiative complements the [Administration's efforts](#) to expand production of more accessible tests and work with private sector partners on the development of new accessible tests.

How to get the tests:

Order [online](#) or by calling 1-800-232-0233.

- Each order will include two (2) rapid-antigen tests that are more accessible for people who are blind or have low vision.
- Orders will ship free, while supplies last.

What's needed to use the tests:

To use the tests, you must:

- Have a [compatible Bluetooth-enabled smartphone](#).
- Download and install a free app from the Apple App Store (for iOS) or Google Play Store (for Android).

What makes the tests more accessible:

The test works with the app to provide:

- Audio step-by-step instructions for administering the test.
- Audio test results.

Who should order these tests:

Because of limited supply, we ask that you only order the more accessible tests if you do not have other options for using the standard COVID-19 tests, such as:

- Receiving help from a household member, family, or trusted friend (in person, or through video calling platforms like FaceTime or Zoom).
- Using assistive technology, such as AIRA or Be My Eyes, to help you take the test and obtain results.

Need more assistance?

The trained staff at the [Disability Information and Access Line](#) (DIAL) can provide additional assistance with:

- Ordering tests.
- Understanding instructions for test administration and test results.
- Providing alternative instructions for traditional at-home tests for people who are unable to access, read, or understand the manufacturer's version.
- For those who cannot use an at-home test, DIAL operators can:

- Assist with ordering “swab and send” kits to collect a sample and mail it back for results.
- Connect callers to local organizations for assistance locating other testing options in their community, including in-home testing programs or transportation or companion support to visit a community-based testing site.

Call 888-677-1199 Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. MT or email DIAL@usaginganddisability.org.

SOURCE: <https://acl.gov/covid19/tests-people-who-are-blind-or-have-low-vision>

Attachment(s):

None

Department Contact:

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