

COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test Kits Update

Rapid Test Kits Availability

The Government of Canada has ended the free of charge COVID-19 rapid antigen test distribution program to provinces and territories. Alberta has now received and distributed our entire allocation of COVID-19 rapid antigen tests from the federal government.

Pharmacies can continue to give the free of charge COVID-19 rapid antigen test kits to Albertans while supplies last. Expiry dates of the remaining test kits vary by product, with the latest expiry date being December 10, 2024. Expired test kits should not be returned to the distributor or manufacturer. If you have test kits that have expired, they should be disposed of according to local waste disposal requirements.

Pharmacies may bring in their own supply of COVID-19 rapid antigen tests their customers to purchase. Alberta Health will not be reimbursing the costs of tests purchased by patients. Pharmacies will also not be eligible for any further service fees for any cases of rapid antigen tests they procure.

Molecular (PCR) Testing

Alberta continues to provide provincially funded laboratory-based COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing for people at risk of severe outcomes if required to support their clinical care and for the purpose of outbreak management in high-risk facilities. A COVID-19 PCR test must be ordered by a health care provider. Additional information on COVID-19 testing can be found at: alberta.ca/covid

General Approach for Respiratory Virus Illnesses

As Albertans are adapting to living with COVID-19, Alberta Health continues to align its COVID-19 management, including testing, with the approach used to handle other respiratory viruses such as influenza.

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area)

403-294-4041 (Calgary and area)

1-800-361-9632 (toll free)

FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area)

FAX 1-877-305-9911 (toll free)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefacts and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims.

Visit ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php

