

# The At-Home Over-the-Counter COVID-19 Test Kit Mandate



Starting January 15, 2022, most people with a health plan can get up to 8 at-home over-the-counter diagnostic test kits at no cost, either through reimbursement or free of charge at point of sale. Frequently asked questions (FAQ) of the mandate can be found here:

<https://www.cms.gov/how-to-get-your-at-home-OTC-COVID-19-test-for-free>

## RESOURCE FOR ANYONE TO GET FREE TEST KITS

Regardless of insurance type, you can get 4 free at-home, over-the-counter (OTC) tests per household. Use this link to get tests mailed to you: <https://special.usps.com/testkits>

## WHAT NMRHCA MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW

In addition to the 4 free tests per household that anyone can get from the resource above, you can get additional free test kits through your insurance provider.

### PRE-MEDICARE

If you are on a Pre-Medicare plan, you can be reimbursed for up to 8 at-home over-the-counter diagnostic tests kits every 30 days for each person on your plan.

#### *You have several options:*

You can pick up point-of-sale test kits from your local participating pharmacies, provide your Express Scripts prescription benefit information, and for \$0 copay get your test kits at no cost.

You can pay for the test kits out of pocket and save your receipts to submit for a reimbursement of up to \$12 per test (most kits come with 2 tests which would be up to a \$24 reimbursement for the 2-test kit).

Eligible members can choose to get their at-home COVID-19 tests online every 30 days from Express Scripts® Pharmacy. [Click here](#) for more details on point-of-sale kits and how to submit your receipts for reimbursement.

## MEDICARE

The new federal at-home, OTC COVID-19 test requirement originally did not apply to Medicare and Medicaid. On February 3, 2022, CMS announced a change so that people on original Medicare or Medicare Advantage will be able to get over-the-counter COVID-19 tests at no cost starting in early spring. The exact date is still to be determined.

Regardless of insurance type, you can access free tests through several channels including:

- Checking the State of New Mexico's COVID 19 Screening and Testing Site Website by clicking here: <https://cvprovider.nmhealth.org/directory.html>
- Ordering a free at-home saliva tests offered at no cost from the State of New Mexico through Vault: <https://learn.vaulthealth.com/nm/>
- Ordering your 4 free at-home, over-the-counter (OTC) tests per household listed above. Use this link to get tests mailed to you: <https://special.usps.com/testkits>
- Check local community centers for available tests. Options to try for a few areas of the state include:
  - Bernalillo County has received approximately 30,000 tests that are being distributed at community centers around the county. Use this link to see what community centers you might be able to get a test kit from: <https://www.bernco.gov/county-manager/covid-19/>
  - The City of Albuquerque has received approximately 80,000 tests that are being distributed throughout the city. Use this link to see how you might be able to get a test kit from: <https://www.cabq.gov/office-of-emergency-management/free-covid-19-self-test-kits-available>
  - Santa Fe County lists several resources for getting tested. Click here to see their publication for getting tested: <https://www.santafecountynm.gov/media/files/ManagersOffice/Covid%20Testing%20Sites%20January%202022.pdf>