VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Antigen Cards Overview
November 10, 2020

Recently, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) began distribution of Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Antigen (Ag) Cards. These are rapid, point-of-care (POC) diagnostic tests for COVID-19 that must be dispensed *by a medical provider with prescriptive authority*. HHS has sent some tests directly to certain locations including long-term care facilities. The rest are being shipped to each state for disbursement. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is working through the state's Unified Command to distribute these tests. This document describes testing priority groups, requirements to use the BinaxNOW test, and additional references.

Priority Groups Identified in Virginia

- **Vulnerable populations**: Low income, people of color, uninsured/underinsured, individuals with disabilities or access and functional needs, limited access to care (rural residents, homeless, etc.)
- **Individuals at higher risk of illness or death** due to age, medical conditions, etc.
- **Residents and staff of congregate care settings:** Skilled nursing and assisted living facilities, behavioral health facilities, correctional institutions, etc.
- **Students, staff and faculty of educational institutions:** Child care, pre K – grade 12, colleges and universities
- **People involved in areas of critical infrastructure** important to the state's recovery and reopening.

Requirements for Receiving Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Cards

- The facility providing the test must have a CLIA certificate of waiver. If unsure of whether your facility has such a certificate, please contact clialab@vdh.virginia.gov.
- All test results (positive and negative) must be reported to VDH within 24 hours through a reporting portal for point-of-care (POC) COVID-19 tests.
- Patients cannot be charged for the test, but the testing entity may charge an administrative fee.
- Test operators must receive appropriate BinaxNOW training and document proficiency.
    - On-line training is available at https://www.globalpointofcare.abbott/en/support/product-installation-training/navica-brand/navica-binaxnow-ag-training.html.
    - To schedule training by an Abbott representative, please contact antigeninfo@vdh.virginia.gov.

Abbott BinaxNOW Requests

- To see if your agency is eligible to receive BinaxNOW from the Commonwealth, please send an email to antigeninfo@vdh.virginia.gov.

Resources

1. VDH Interim COVID-19 Antigen Testing Recommendations:
   www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/antigen-testing-recommendations/
2. VDH COVID-19 Antigen Testing Algorithm:
   www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/05/COVID-19-Testing-Algorithm.pdf