

Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Guide to eMed-proctored BinaxNOW COVID-19 Antigen Home Test Kits

For K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education (ECE) programs

What type of COVID-19 tests are these? What is eMed?

VDH is contracting with [eMed](#) to provide at-home, virtually-guided rapid antigen testing using the BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card Home Test Kit. The BinaxNOW COVID-19 Antigen Card Home Test is a **rapid antigen test** that determines if a person is currently infected with COVID-19 or not. It uses a nasal swab for sample collection and returns test results in about 15 minutes. This test has been authorized by the FDA under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). For additional information about the test kit, refer to this [FDA brief](#).

eMed provides on-demand telehealth sessions with a Certified Guide to proctor testing, so schools and child care facilities do **not** need to have a prescriber or CLIA waiver. These test kits are designed for use at home and do not require a healthcare provider. However, the eMed Certified Guide and telehealth proctoring service **must** be used.

How should these tests be used?

eMed-proctored BinaxNOW tests can be used for testing of teachers, staff, and/or students ages 2 and up. All testing is voluntary. eMed-proctored BinaxNOW COVID-19 Antigen Card Home Test Kits **should not** be used for children less than 2 years of age.

Schools and child care facilities are recommended to send test kits home with parents, teachers, or staff to conduct the telehealth testing sessions at home. Schools and child care facilities may also make it possible for families/caregivers to come to the facility to pick up a test kit for at-home testing. Schools with the resources to do so may offer testing at school on-site.

For additional testing guidance, please refer to the [VDH K-12 Testing website](#) or the [VDH Child Care Testing website](#). For additional guidance on illness detection and reporting, isolation, and quarantine for your setting, please refer to [VDH Interim Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools, Child Care and Day Camps](#).

How should these tests be stored?

VDH recommends storing kits in a secure location and supply should be monitored carefully. Tests must be stored at 35.6-86°F (2-30°C). The BinaxNOW Ag Card Home Test kit is stable until the expiration date marked on the outer packaging and containers. Ensure the kit has not expired prior to use. Ensure all test components are at room temperature prior to use.

How does the eMed service work?

- The eMed Certified Guide is a telehealth proctor who must supervise the testing process, as per the test's FDA issued Emergency Use Authorization. The proctor has received rigorous training and testing certification in the testing administration and process of the Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Antigen Home Test.
- An internet-enabled device and internet connectivity is required, as well as a forward facing camera and microphone enabled device.
- **The proctoring service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.** eMed Guides are available on-demand with little to no wait time.
- Individuals 15 years of age or older may self-collect and perform the test under the observation of the eMed Certified Guide. Individuals ages 2-14 will require an adult to perform the sample collection under the observation of an eMed Certified Guide. The adult does not have to be a medical professional or a parent.
- If the tester taker is under the age of 18, a parent or legal guardian must select "I am helping someone else take the test" on the drop down menu of the "Who Is Taking This Test?" page, submit the Personal Information, and agree to the eMed [Privacy Policy](#) on the test taker's behalf.
- Under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), eMed is required by law to maintain the privacy of health information that identifies you, called protected health information (PHI), and to provide you with notice of their legal duties and privacy practices regarding PHI. Privacy information can be found on the eMed website [here](#).

Preparing for Testing

All testing must be voluntary. If testing will be conducted on-site by the school or child care facility, there must be a signed consent form on file for testing. Please see more guidance for [testing on site](#).

1. Facility administrators may view and share the [testing overview video](#) to better understand the testing process.

2. Proper sample collection, storage, and transport are essential for correct results.

- ✓ Leave the test card sealed in its foil pouch until just before use.
- ✓ Do not use if the pouch is damaged or open.
- ✓ Do not use a kit past its expiration date.
- ✓ Swabs in the kit are approved for use with the BinaxNOW COVID-19 Test card.
Do not use other swabs.

3. Test kits should **remain unopened** until the test taker is directed to open the kit by a Certified Guide in an eMed telehealth session. To maintain the integrity of the process, **eMed will not proctor a session using an opened test kit.**

4. **ID Requirements:** Parents/guardians should be prepared to show a valid ID to the test proctor prior to the child's COVID-19 test. Young adults 18 and older will be expected to present their own ID.

- a. **Valid forms of ID accepted:** driver's license, passport, passport card, birth certificate, state-issued identification card, military ID card, and official school ID

How to Start Testing

- The individual taking the test (and a supervising adult, if under 15 years old) will start their testing session through their device (computer, phone, tablet) by going to the Virginia eMed homepage: <https://virginia.emed.com/>. K-12 schools will select "test for school" and child care facilities will select "other" to begin testing.
 - The user will set up an eMed account, agree to the eMed Privacy Policy.
 - Users will complete a checklist provided on the website to ensure they are ready to start the test and then be connected to an eMed Certified Guide. Within the test kit, there is a QR code the eMed Certified Guide will scan to register the test and the individual taking it.
 - The box containing the test kit components **should not be opened** until directed to do so by the eMed Certified Guide, or the testing session will not be valid.
- While the Certified Guide observes the process, the individual being tested (or an adult, if under 15 years old) will perform the necessary actions to perform the test (using a dropper, inserting the swab in the nostrils to take a swab, sealing it accurately in the testing kit). After waiting 15 minutes, the Certified Guide will read the result. Individuals will be provided a copy of their test result.

- If you have questions about the eMed testing process please email customersupport@emed.com or call 1-833-369-1079 (available weekdays) or 1-866-369-1079 (available 24/7)

Testing on site at school or a child care facility

- Ensure that the individual being tested has a signed consent form on file.
- For guidance on appropriate infection control and PPE to be used during testing, please see [CDC Interim Guidelines for Clinical Specimens for COVID-19](#).
- Note that tests **do not** need to be conducted or supervised by a medical professional since they will be proctored by eMed. Any adult (not just the school nurse) can administer the test.

Results Reporting

- eMed will document the test results. Results will be reported by eMed to VDH.
- The tested individual will also receive a copy of their result electronically.
- If the test is conducted at school, the school should follow their notification and containment procedures, including notifying a parent or caregiver. Review VDH's [guidance on isolation](#) and to help determine next steps for ill or exposed individuals.

Student or Staff Tests Positive for COVID-19

If a test is positive, the individual should:

- ✓ Remain at home, or if they tested positive at school, the positive student or staff member should follow the school's policy for being excused from the school setting due to illness.
- ✓ Follow [VDH guidance on isolation](#) for additional guidance.
- ✓ Monitor symptoms
- ✓ Notify the school or child care facility and personal close contacts