

Virginia Department of Health
Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Antigen Cards Distribution
Update - December 1, 2020

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) distributed Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Antigen Cards (“BinaxNOW”) to priority populations such as long-term care facilities, home health and hospice organizations and historically black colleges and universities. Shipments were also sent to state departments of health for further distribution.

Working through the state’s Unified Command, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) disbursed portions of Virginia’s allotment to priority groups, either deemed to represent vulnerable populations or those serving critical infrastructure. Organizations that have received BinaxNOW to date include:

- Virginia Hospitals and Health Care Association (100,000)
- Institutes of Higher Learning (101,200) as of 12/1 with some more on the way
- Department of Corrections (25,000)
- Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services facilities (15,888)
- Home Health and Hospice that did not receive HHS supplies (5,760)
- Free Clinics (3,640)

Several single requests of BinaxNOW tests (2,000 or less) intended to meet immediate needs for outbreak response, surveillance and testing of critical infrastructure, or healthcare facilities without adequate testing have also been met.

In addition, VDH Local Health Districts (LHDs) were provided 100,000 BinaxNOW tests in late November to address their immediate community needs. Based on the expected receipt of additional BinaxNOW test kits from HHS, VDH Central Office will send LHDs a second supply of tests in late December. This shipment will be approximately 1-3 times the initial shipment sent.

Other partnerships that the testing team is actively working on as of December 1 include:

- Distribution to a Retail Pharmacy, TBA (15 locations) (90,000)
- Statewide EMS Councils (Varied amounts, 1500 or less)
- Additional shipment to Free Clinics (~5,000 tests)

VDH Central Office is also beginning to engage with private provider networks to distribute BinaxNOW for use in primary care settings including pediatric practices. These partnerships will increase accessibility to priority groups to support reopening of schools, critical infrastructure, and/or meet the needs of other at-risk populations. Testing of symptomatic individuals and close contacts of COVID-19 cases will be specifically encouraged, though other groups may be included as well.

Further discussion will also be had with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to plan for BinaxNOW accessibility for residential treatment centers, as well as access to general testing for other locally operated centers such as group homes or day support programs.

The state will retain approximately 10% of its existing supplies to help support emergent needs or outbreak response.

To access the VDH’s clinical and public health recommendations on use of antigen tests including the BinaxNOW, please see the [Antigen Testing Recommendations](#). For any questions, please contact antigeninfo@vdh.virginia.gov.