

# A REFERENCE GUIDE

UPDATED DECEMBER 17, 2021

## FOR TAKE-HOME RAPID ANTIGEN TEST KITS

As of **December 17, 2021**, Albertans can pick up free, take-home COVID-19 rapid antigen testing kits from participating pharmacies in Edmonton, Red Deer and Calgary. In other Alberta communities, take-home COVID-19 rapid antigen testing kits will be available through Alberta Health Services sites.

Albertans can visit the Alberta Blue Cross website at [www.ab.bluecross.ca/news/covid-19-immunization-program-information.php](http://www.ab.bluecross.ca/news/covid-19-immunization-program-information.php) to find a pharmacy location offering take-home testing kits. As more tests become available from Health Canada, more locations will be added.

These kits are intended for at home, personal use for regular screening by people without symptoms of COVID-19. People who screen positive on a rapid test or have symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home, isolate and book a PCR test through Alberta Health Services using the online assessment tool or by calling 811.

### **What is the role of a pharmacy in providing these tests?**

- Any Albertan can access free COVID-19 take-home rapid antigen test kits from participating pharmacies. Kits will be available on a first-come first-serve basis.
- Pharmacies will document the PHN, name, address and date of birth for each Albertan requesting provision of a take-home rapid antigen test kit when updating their electronic health record.
- To ensure as many Albertans have access as possible, there will be a limit of one take-home rapid antigen test kit within a 14-day period per person. Albertans can pick up one additional test kit for other persons who cannot pick one up themselves, provided they have the individual's PHN.

### **What if the person who wants a take-home rapid antigen test kit does not have a PHN or is not from Alberta?**

- If the individual does not have a valid PHN or is not a resident of Alberta, a pseudo-PHN of CV00000000 can be used.

### **Is there a cost for these take-home rapid antigen test kits?**

- The take-home rapid antigen test kits are provided to Alberta by the Government of Canada.
- The take-home rapid antigen test kits are made available to Albertans at no cost. Pharmacies that choose to participate are not to charge Albertans, nor are the tests to be resold for any other purpose.
- Pharmacies can direct bill a dispensing fee of \$5 to Alberta Blue Cross by using PIN 00071128, SSC: L for each take-home rapid antigen test kit provided.

## How will Albertans know how to properly administer the rapid tests they receive?

- The BTNX Rapid Antigen Test Kit is easy to use and comes with a manufacturer information sheet that explains how to perform the tests and how to read the results.
- Each BTNX Rapid Antigen Test Kit comes with five tests. Recommended use is for Albertans to use at least two tests each week, 72 hours apart.
- In addition, the Government of Alberta has helpful reference materials including information on how to use the tests, when to use the tests and videos on how the test works available at [alberta.ca/COVIDRapidtests](https://alberta.ca/COVIDRapidtests).
- Pharmacy teams may also provide additional information if required or requested.
- An information sheet for patients will be provided with take-home rapid antigen test kit shipments. A PDF version of the information sheet can be found here:

[open.alberta.ca/publications/covid-19-information-covid-19-rapid-testing](https://open.alberta.ca/publications/covid-19-information-covid-19-rapid-testing)

## What does an Albertan do if they have a positive result?

- If an Albertan has a positive test result, they should book a confirmatory PCR test at an Alberta Health Services assessment centre and must immediately isolate for 10 days or until they have a negative PCR test.
- The Albertan should not continue performing rapid antigen tests.

## What does an Albertan do if they have a negative result?

- A negative result does not rule out infection. This means they could still have COVID-19 even though the test is negative.
- Continue to monitor for symptoms and follow all public health guidelines.

## How effective are rapid tests?

- When administered correctly, in a person with symptoms, rapid tests can identify 75 to 80 per cent of infections.
- In a person without symptoms, rapid tests can identify 20 to 60 per cent of infections.

## Can the take-home rapid antigen test kits be used for other purposes than individual at home use?

- The take-home rapid antigen test kits are only for use for asymptomatic Albertans for at home testing. Tests are of particular benefit for those who have had a recent COVID-19 exposure but have no symptoms.
- Rapid antigen tests continue to be available to any public, private or not-for-profit employer or service provider with an approved COVID-19 screening program. Organizations can continue to apply at [alberta.ca/rapidtesting](https://alberta.ca/rapidtesting) or with their local Chambers of Commerce.
- Rapid test kits will also be provided to all schools on alert status, for use on a voluntary basis.

## If an employer has implemented a proof of vaccination program, can these tests be used to meet testing requirements?

- No. These take-home rapid antigen test kits are for at home personal use, and do not provide appropriate documentation.
- If an employer provides rapid tests through a screening program, Albertans are advised to access tests through work.
- If an employer does not provide tests, Albertans will have to pay for a private test.

## Can the take-home rapid antigen tests be used as proof of a negative test for businesses and events participating in the Restrictions Exemption Program (REP)? What about for travel purposes?

- The take-home rapid antigen test kits provided through this program cannot support testing for the REP.
- This means Albertans cannot supply documentation from these tests for admission or entry to a site, venue or an event that participates in REP.
- Unvaccinated individuals must continue to obtain a negative COVID-19 test administered through a private vendor or pharmacy to gain admission.
- The take-home rapid antigen test kits **do not** meet requirements for travel. They do not include appropriate documentation. Albertans should not attempt to use them in place of testing requirements for domestic or international travel.

### Data elements for direct bill claiming:

- Carrier code 16 (as the third-party plan);
- Group number for all transactions must be 23464, Section 000;
- Pharmacy license number;
- Pharmacist license number;
- Client number—client's personal health number (PHN); if the individual does not have a valid PHN or is not a resident of Alberta, use pseudo-PHN CV00000000;
- Client's full name—last and first name;
- Client's date of birth;
- Client's gender;
- Relationship code—should your software require you to enter a relationship code, zero (0) must be used as the default;
- Prescriber reference ID number—pharmacist license number;
- 86 should be used in the Prescriber Reference Code field;
- Quantity –1;
- Service date;
- Drug cost—\$0.00;
- Dispensing Fee: \$5.00;
- PIN—00071128; and
- Special Service Code (SSC)—L.

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)

