

Take-home rapid antigen test kits update for all remaining pharmacies outside of Edmonton, Red Deer and Calgary

On **Friday, February 4**, a pre-booking for take-home COVID-19 rapid antigen test kits will be available for all remaining pharmacies outside of Edmonton, Red Deer and Calgary through their primary pharmacy wholesale distributor (McKesson, Imperial, Kohl & Frisch or Matrix SDM).

Participating pharmacies will receive six cases of take-home rapid antigen kits (108 kits per case for a total of 648 kits) for delivery as early as the week of February 7, 2022.

Pharmacies will receive communication about the pre-booking process from their primary pharmacy wholesale distributors. If your pharmacy does not receive information about the pre-booking process by February 4, please follow up with your primary pharmacy wholesale distributor directly.

A reference guide for take-home rapid antigen test kits is available on the Alberta Blue Cross website at ab.bluecross.ca/pdfs/Reference-guide-for-take-home-rapid-antigen-test-kits.pdf.

Albertans will be able to visit alberta.ca/CovidRapidTests to find a location currently offering take-home rapid antigen testing kits. This site will be updated on the day after each pharmacy's scheduled delivery is to occur.

Please do not contact Alberta Blue Cross for further information on the pre-booking process for February 4 or on rapid antigen test-kit supply or deliveries.

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-served basis.
- Pharmacies will document the Personal Health Number (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 as possible have access, 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.

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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 and 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.

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 the REP.
- Unvaccinated individuals must continue to obtain a negative COVID-19 test administered through a private vendor or pharmacy to gain admission to businesses participating in the REP.
- 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.

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)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefacts and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims.

Visit ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php

