



THE LOCAL CHOICE E-NEWS

Department of Human Resource Management State and Local Health Benefits Programs

January 27, 2022

Health Plan Reimbursement of COVID-19 At-Home Tests

TLC Group Administrators: *The following email will be sent to all local employees and non-Medicare eligible retirees enrolled in TLC plans with emails in Cardinal and BES.*

The federal government has announced health plan reimbursement for eligible over-the-counter diagnostic COVID-19 tests purchased January 15, 2022 or later. This mandate is in effect until the end of the federal Coronavirus Public Health Emergency. Diagnostic tests are performed if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or have recently been exposed.

Based on the guidelines provided by the Biden administration, each individual on your health plan can receive up to eight over-the-counter COVID-19 tests each month. If you purchase a test kit that includes two rapid tests, those will count as two of your eight covered tests.

Who should take a test and when?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides guidelines for *who* should get a diagnostic test and *when* based on your current health, your vaccination status, and your history of infection. Visit the CDC website for the most up-to-date [testing guidance](#).

Where can I find a test?

Visit [COVIDtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov) for information on free tests that may be available through government services. You can still use in-person diagnostic COVID-19 testing sites. These may include your doctor's office, a pharmacy or health clinic, or an urgent care center. Use our [COVID-19 Test Site Finder](#) to find a testing location close to you. At-home diagnostic tests can be purchased over the counter, online, at a local pharmacy, or from a big-box store.

How do I get reimbursed for the test?

Reimbursement guidelines are available at your individual health plan websites.

[TLC Key Advantage and TLC HDHP flyer](#)

[Kaiser Permanente HMO flyer](#)

[Optima Health Vantage HMO information](#)

Still Have Questions? *Contact your individual health plan.*

Please do not reply to this e-mail. You may send inquiries to The Local Choice mailbox at tlc@dhrm.virginia.gov.