



**Abbott BinaxNOW Antigen Cards and Mask Exemption**  
**Oct. 28, 2020**

1. The Department of Health and Human services has committed to sending 290,000 state-of-the-art Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 point of care antigen tests to the State of Delaware. The rapid point of care tests, which can diagnose coronavirus infection in as little as fifteen minutes, are being distributed by the State to support our overall testing strategy, beginning with increasing access to testing for K-12 students.
  - a. Licensed independent healthcare practitioners (MD/DO, DMD/DDS, PA, APRN) providing care to K-12 students may submit a request for Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 point of care antigen tests via email at [dhss06sg\\_SHOC\\_Operations@delaware.gov](mailto:dhss06sg_SHOC_Operations@delaware.gov) using a SHOC Resource Request Form.
  - b. All testing must be performed in compliance with standards set forth by the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA) and FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).
  - c. The ultimate clinical decision making from, implementation of, interpretation of, and reporting of COVID-19 antigen tests are the ultimate responsibility of the licensed practitioner (MD/DO, DMD/DDS, PA, APRN) by whom the tests are administered and who is listed as the ordering practitioner for the testing procedure.
  - d. Use of point-of-care COVID-19 antigen testing is contingent upon reporting of results to the Delaware Division of Public Health via the results logging portal, access to which can be requested by emailing [Dhss\\_Dph\\_RedcapAccess@delaware.gov](mailto:Dhss_Dph_RedcapAccess@delaware.gov) (note underscores) or via the DPH fax at 302-223-1540. COVID-19 remains a reportable disease and failure to report may result in adverse action.
  - e. Providers must familiarize themselves with DPH Rapid Antigen Testing Protocols, available at <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/resources-medical-providers/>.
2. CDC and DPH recommend the use of face coverings in public for all people older than 2 years, unless they have difficulty breathing or are incapacitated. Per Governor Carney's [27<sup>th</sup> Modification to the State of Emergency](#), the use of face coverings is required for persons from Kindergarten and older.
  - a. Some individuals, particularly children, with sensory processing disorders may be unable to tolerate masks. Facial deformities that are incompatible with masking are an additional category of exemption. Other situations, such as chronic pulmonary illnesses without an active exemption, are less clear.
  - b. In evaluating an individual patient requesting a provider's note for mask exemption, clinicians should seek to balance appropriate accommodations with public health. Clinicians have no obligation to provide a mask exemption to patients if it is not

medically warranted and should carefully consider the impact on public and community health of doing so prior to providing mask exemptions in their practice.

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