

## Kaiser Permanente Response to Federal COVID-19 Mandate

The highly contagious omicron variant continues to spread throughout our communities. Vaccination and boosters provide the best protection against severe illness from COVID-19. Testing is also an important tool in slowing the spread of COVID-19. While Kaiser Permanente has provided over 68,000 daily tests, demand currently exceeds capacity. Rapid antigen home tests, also called rapid COVID tests or self-tests, offer another way to help reduce the spread. Health plans are now reimbursing members for these at-home tests.

### Kaiser Permanente to cover cost of COVID-19 rapid antigen home tests

Following guidance from the Biden administration, Kaiser Permanente will now reimburse members for FDA-approved rapid antigen home tests. Members can [submit a reimbursement claim](#) for tests purchased on or after January 15, 2022.

Currently, there is a nationwide shortage of rapid antigen home tests. Kaiser Permanente, like other health care organizations, has access to a very limited supply of tests. We are working to get tests and make them available to our members through a number of outlets, including mail-order. We will share details as they become available.

### How to get FDA-approved rapid antigen home tests

- Starting January 19, members can request free rapid antigen home tests, without shipping fees, from the **federal government**. [<https://www.covidtests.gov/>]
- Rapid antigen home tests are also available at local drugstores or online. Kaiser Permanente will reimburse members for FDA-approved rapid antigen home tests purchased on or after January 15th.
- In the coming days, as supply of tests increases, we will make more rapid antigen home tests available to members. Visit [kp.org](https://kp.org) for the most up-to-date information on supply, testing, and vaccinations. <[kp.org/coronavirus](https://kp.org/coronavirus)>

### Guidance on types of COVID-19 tests

**Rapid antigen home tests** are a fast, easy way to get a quick result if members have symptoms, think they have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, or plan to gather indoors with those who may be at risk including unvaccinated children, older individuals, and those who are immunocompromised. Results are typically available within 30 minutes. < <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-emergency-use-authorizations-medical-devices/in-vitro-diagnostics-euas-antigen-diagnostic-tests-sars-cov-2>>

**PCR tests** are usually processed in a lab and results are typically available in 1-3 days. At Kaiser Permanente, PCR tests are required for members who are coming in for certain clinical procedures that require a negative test in advance. For more detail, visit our [COVID-19 testing FAQs](#). [<https://healthy.kaiserpermanente.org/health-wellness/coronavirus-information/testing#faqs> ]

**Q: Will Kaiser Permanente reimburse me for COVID-19 rapid antigen home tests that I purchase?**

A: In accordance with new federal guidance, starting on January 15, Kaiser Permanente will reimburse members for the cost of 8 rapid antigen home tests per calendar month. Tests purchased prior to January 15 are not eligible for reimbursement under this guidance.

Members can submit reimbursement claims through [kp.org](http://kp.org).

**Q: How do I submit a claim for reimbursement?**

A: If you purchased a rapid antigen home test for COVID-19 that has been authorized for emergency use by the FDA and need to submit a claim for reimbursement, go to “Coverage & Costs” on [kp.org](http://kp.org) and select “Submit a claim.”

You will need to submit information about the test(s) purchased and proof of payment, which could include receipts, or a bank or credit card statement.

**Q: If a kit comes with more than one test in it, does that count as one or more towards my reimbursable amount?**

A: If a kit comes with 2 tests, it counts as 2 tests towards the monthly limit

**Q: Can I get rapid antigen home tests from Kaiser Permanente?**

A: Currently there is a nationwide shortage of rapid antigen tests. Kaiser Permanente, like other health care providers has access to a very limited supply of tests. We are working to get tests and will make them available to our members through a number of outlets, including mail order. We will share further details as they become available. In the interim, the following options are available to you:

- Starting January 19, you can request free rapid antigen tests online, without shipping fees, from the federal government ([www.covidtests.gov/](http://www.covidtests.gov/))
- Rapid antigen tests are also available at your local drug store or through online retailers for home use. Kaiser Permanente will reimburse members for FDA approved rapid antigen home tests purchased on or after January 15th.

**Q: If my doctor prescribes a rapid antigen home test, does that count toward the monthly reimbursable amount?**

A: No, any rapid antigen test prescribed under clinical guidance or administered with a provider’s involvement will not count toward the reimbursable limit of rapid antigen home tests per member per month that must be covered.

**Q: If my doctor prescribes a rapid antigen home test, does that count toward the monthly reimbursable amount?**

A: No, any rapid antigen test prescribed under clinical guidance or administered with a provider’s involvement will not count toward the reimbursable limit of rapid antigen home tests per member per month that must be covered.