

COVID-19 Testing and Case Reporting Resources for Homeless Service Sites and Correctional Settings

Overview

This resource is intended for community-based facilities that offer congregate living, dining, or programming to people experiencing homelessness, people with temporary or transitional housing needs, or people who are living in a Department of Corrections (DOC)-licensed facility or who are otherwise justice-involved. Examples include homeless service settings and encampments, jails, prisons, DOC-licensed correctional facilities, juvenile detention centers, domestic violence shelters, youth shelters, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, unlicensed sober homes, halfway houses, and board and lodges. This resource provides information on testing resources available to facilities through the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and information on how to report COVID-19 cases to MDH.

Testing options available through MDH

COVID-19 testing master contract program

The state has several vendors under contract that offer a variety of testing options to provide organizations with resources to create and maintain COVID-19 testing programs. The master contract program allows facilities to purchase tests at State-negotiated prices. Benefits include:

- Already negotiated terms and conditions.
- Assistance from the State in getting vendors on contract for specific tasks.
- Better pricing.
- Competitively vetted vendors.

MDH shared information in a webinar about how to use master contracts: [COVID-19 Updates for Correctional Settings, May 3, 2022](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MNMDH/2022/05/06/file_attachments/2152246/Corrections%20Webinar_MDH_5.3.22.pdf) ([content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MNMDH/2022/05/06/file_attachments/2152246/Corrections%20Webinar MDH 5.3.22.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MNMDH/2022/05/06/file_attachments/2152246/Corrections%20Webinar_MDH_5.3.22.pdf)).

Questions about the master contracts can be directed to pt.contracts@state.mn.us.

Rapid antigen tests

MDH has a supply of rapid antigen tests available to homeless service sites and correctional facilities to test staff and residents for COVID-19. Antigen tests may be used by facilities or distributed to staff and clients for personal use.

- If your facility administers COVID-19 tests to residents or staff onsite (i.e., collects the sample or reads results), this is considered **point of care testing**. When conducting point of care testing, your facility.
 - Must have a CLIA certificate of waiver (see below for information on how to obtain a CLIA certificate of waiver).
 - Must report positive test results from point of care testing to MDH through [SimpleReport \(www.simplereport.gov/\)](https://www.simplereport.gov/).
- A CLIA waiver is not required to distribute tests to staff or residents for **personal** use (i.e., at-home tests, self-tests), and facilities are not required to report results from personal tests to MDH.

Facilities may order rapid antigen tests by completing the [COVID-19 OTC Rapid Antigen Test Request Form \(redcap.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=WL9N3NLT4L\)](https://redcap.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=WL9N3NLT4L).

Rapid molecular tests

Cue rapid molecular tests (no longer available through MDH)

MDH is no longer distributing Cue tests. However, Cue Readers do not expire. Facilities that have Cue Readers can continue using them for testing, but will need to order Cue tests elsewhere.

Personal Protective Equipment

MDH has a supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) available on request to congregate living settings. To submit a request for PPE, facilities should email the [Highly Impacted Settings Team \(Health.R-Congregate@state.mn.us\)](mailto:Health.R-Congregate@state.mn.us).

CLIA requirements

What is a CLIA certificate of waiver?

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regulates all laboratory testing (except research) performed on humans in the United States, through the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA). The objective of the CLIA program is to ensure quality laboratory testing. More information on CLIA is available at [Minnesota Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment \(CLIA\) \(www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/regulation/clia/index.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/regulation/clia/index.html).

How to apply for a CLIA certificate of waiver

Note that there is a \$180 fee due every two years to maintain a CLIA waiver. Visit the following links for more information about CLIA waivers:

- Check if your facility already has a CLIA waiver, [CDC: CLIA Laboratory Search \(www.cdc.gov/clia/LabSearch.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/clia/LabSearch.html).

- Learn more about CLIA waivers and how to apply, [Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment \(CLIA\) Frequently Asked Questions \(www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/regulation/clia/cliafaq.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/regulation/clia/cliafaq.html).
- Information on who may be an ordering provider, [CMS: Ordering & Certifying \(www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/Ordering-and-Certifying\)](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/Ordering-and-Certifying).
- Apply for a CLIA certificate of waiver using the CMS-116 form, [CMS: Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments \(CLIA\) Application for Certification \(www.cms.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/downloads/cms116.pdf\)](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/downloads/cms116.pdf) and email the completed form to health.CLIA@state.mn.us.

Reporting positive COVID-19 test results

- Facilities must report all **positive, point of care/facility-administered test results** (e.g., Binax, Cue, QuickVue, etc.) to MDH within one working day. Report through [SimpleReport \(www.simplereport.gov/\)](http://www.simplereport.gov/).
- Report any **outbreak or unusual cluster** of COVID-19 cases through REDCap, [Reporting Unusual COVID-19 Situations in Corrections and Shelters \(redcap.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=WDCFYJD3YD34X83J\)](http://redcap.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=WDCFYJD3YD34X83J).
- Report any **death** in a staff person or resident suspected to have died due to COVID-19 through REDCap, [Reporting Unusual COVID-19 Situations in Corrections and Shelters \(redcap.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=WDCFYJD3YD34X83J\)](http://redcap.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=WDCFYJD3YD34X83J).

Facilities do not need to report results from rapid antigen tests that were distributed for personal use.

Tests conducted for a facility by a third-party contract laboratory do not need to be reported by the correctional or shelter facility as the results of those tests are already required to be reported to MDH by the contract laboratory.

For complete information on reporting requirements see the [Revised Notice of Statewide Surveillance for COVID-19/SARS CoV-2 under the Minnesota Communicable Disease Rule \(4605.7080\) \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/reportable/rule/process/covid70800823.pdf\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/reportable/rule/process/covid70800823.pdf).

If you would like technical assistance from MDH, please contact the Highly Impacted Settings Team at: Health.R-congregate@state.mn.us.

Minnesota Department of Health
PO Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
651-201-5414
health.r-congregate@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us

11/27/2023

To obtain this information in a different format, call 651-201-5414.