

COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing Kits FAQs

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Envolve Pharmacy Solutions' Role in the Pandemic

Envolve Pharmacy Solutions was well positioned when this pandemic started as most of our support and operations functions were already set up to accommodate a “virtual world.” We are proud that we have maintained disruption-free service to our plans and members during this time.

As drugs, vaccines, and tests are being approved or authorized for COVID-19, Envolve Pharmacy Solutions is committed to providing information that is credible and easy to understand. We have launched a [COVID-19 resources hub](#) with helpful information and reference material related to the pandemic and steps everyone can take to stay safe and informed.

OTC Test Kits for COVID-19

On January 10, 2022 the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Labor, and the Treasury (collectively termed, “The Departments”) released published guidance regarding the requirement that commercial market plans and insurers cover over-the-counter (OTC) COVID-19 tests without cost sharing during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) without a health care provider’s involvement or prescription.

They also released [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) regarding the implementation of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on January 10, 2022 regarding COVID-19 diagnostic testing. This follows President Biden’s December 2 announcement.

Envolve Pharmacy Solutions is actively monitoring the COVID-19 landscape. Below you will find helpful information and answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about COVID-19 diagnostic testing kits and how it applies for private insurers.

PLAN-SPECIFIC FAQ

Can plans opt-in or opt-out of covering OTC COVID-19 diagnostic tests?

Under section 6001 of the FFCRA, plans are required to cover COVID-19 tests that have been authorized, cleared, or approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) without imposing any cost-sharing requirements, prior authorization, or other medical management requirements. Your account manager will provide an update once your plan has been enrolled to cover OTC COVID-19 tests at point of sale. Envolve Pharmacy Solutions will provide the option to opt-out of the direct coverage of these products; however, it is strongly encouraged to provide coverage since testing is critical to help effectively combat COVID-19. For plans that want to opt-out of coverage, please contact your account manager.

How will Envolve Pharmacy Solutions monitor Fraud Waste and Abuse (FWA), including pricing increases for these tests?

Envolve Pharmacy Solutions has been monitoring FWA since the beginning of the pandemic. They will be doing weekly reviews on these products to ensure that any FWA situations are mitigated quickly.

How will Envolve Pharmacy Solutions be communicating this new coverage to members?

As drugs, vaccines, and tests are being approved or authorized for COVID-19, Envolve Pharmacy Solutions is committed to providing information that is credible and easy to understand. We have launched a [COVID-19 resources hub](#) with helpful information and reference material related to the pandemic and steps everyone can take to stay safe and informed.

How much will each OTC COVID-19 test cost the plan?

Members will pay \$0 for eligible tests. Plans will pay the cost of the products based on their existing contractual agreements and direct member reimbursement (DMR) limits established by Health and Human Services (HHS). The COVID-19 landscape is changing rapidly and as additional guidance or direction is received, coverage strategies and reimbursement methodologies will be subject to change.

PLAN AND MEMBER FAQ

Will Envolve Pharmacy Solutions cover over-the-counter (OTC) COVID-19 diagnostic tests coverage?

Envolve Pharmacy Solutions plans to process pharmacy claims for FDA authorized, cleared, or approved OTC COVID-19 antigen tests at \$0 for members who utilize an in-network pharmacy. Members should check-out at the pharmacy counter with their pharmacy benefit (prescription) card. Members do not need a provider order or individualized clinical assessment to obtain these tests. Direct coverage at point-of-sale (POS) may only be provided for OTC COVID-19 tests with an associated National Drug Codes (NDC). Testing for employment purposes will not be covered.

Examples of FDA authorized, cleared, or approved OTC COVID-19 Antigen tests include, but are not limited to:

- BINAXNOW COVID-19 AG SELF TEST
- CARESTART COVID19 AG HOME TEST
- ELLUME COVID-19 HOME TEST
- FLOWFLEX COVID-19 AG HOME TEST
- IHEALTH COVID-19 AG RAPID TEST
- QUICKVUE AT-HOME COVID-19 TEST

Where can members purchase OTC COVID-19 tests?

Members can purchase OTC COVID-19 Tests at pharmacies using their pharmacy benefit.

When can members get OTC COVID-19 diagnostic tests at \$0 co-pay?

Effective January 15, 2022 and for the duration of the public health emergency (PHE), Envolve Pharmacy Solutions plans to provide coverage of OTC, at-home, diagnostic COVID-19 antigen tests that have been authorized, cleared, or approved by the FDA. No retrospective reimbursement will be provided to members if tests are purchased prior to January 15, 2022.

How many OTC COVID-19 diagnostic tests will be covered for members?

During the PHE, Envolve Pharmacy Solutions will be providing coverage of eight tests per 30-day period per member without cost-sharing requirements (including deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance), prior authorization, or other medical management requirements on such OTC COVID-19 antigen tests. This quantity limit aligns with federal guidance and our business strategies to expedite the direct coverage of OTC COVID-19 tests.

The Departments recognize that some OTC COVID-19 tests are sold in packages containing more than

one test. In applying the quantity limit of eight tests per 30-days, the Department allows plans to count each test separately, even if multiple tests are sold in one package. This quantity limit is set in place to discourage behaviors that could lead to future shortages.

Can members get more than eight tests per 30-day period?

Members can get more than eight tests per 30 days if the tests are ordered or administered by a health care provider following an individualized clinical assessment. This includes patients who may need more due to an underlying medical condition. Providers or pharmacies will need to outreach to the Envolve Pharmacy Solutions Call Center for overrides in these special situations. Please use the phone number listed on the back of the prescription card.

If no OTC COVID-19 tests are available, where can members get tested?

Testing is crucial to combating this pandemic. Envolve Pharmacy Solutions encourages members to seek COVID-19 tests at one of the many new federal testing sites around the country if OTC COVID-19 tests are inaccessible. The government has also purchased 500 million at-home rapid tests to be distributed to members for free of charge. The government will be launching a website with more information on how to order a free COVID-19 test. Once it is ready, the link will be provided here.

How can members submit a Direct Member Reimbursement (DMR) claim?

Members who have purchased OTC Antigen COVID-19 tests from an out-of-network pharmacy may submit their claims for reimbursement if the product was FDA authorized, cleared, or approved and has a valid NDC. The maximum reimbursement possible per test is no less than the actual price or up to \$12/test, whichever is lower. Please use the steps below to submit a request.

1. Visit the **Forms for Download Page**
(<https://pharmacy.envolvehealth.com/members/forms.html>)
2. Click on **Claim, Complaint, Appeal**
3. Print and complete the **Claim Reimbursement** form
4. Mail in the form and include the name of the OTC COVID-19 test, and a register receipt/proof of payment to the address below:

Envolve Pharmacy Solutions
5 River Park Place East Suite 210
Fresno, CA 93720

Can members use their FSA/HSA card to purchase these COVID-19 tests?

If members are planning to seek reimbursement via DMR from their prescription benefit, then they cannot use their FSA/HSA card to purchase these tests.

What are the different types of COVID-19 tests available?

There are two main diagnostic tests available to detect infection with SARS-CoV-2; the rapid Antigen test and the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test.

- A PCR test is performed to detect the presence of a virus if you are infected at the time of the test. It could also detect fragments of the virus even after you are no longer infected. PCR tests are generally performed by a health care provider, require the submission of a sample to a lab, and can take a few days to process. Results may be received within 1-3 days of testing.
- A rapid antigen test can detect the presence of a virus similar to a PCR test. They are less expensive, can be purchased at a variety of pharmacies, and produce results within 10-15 minutes of testing. Antigen tests can be used in screening programs to quickly identify those who are likely to be contagious. However, they are less sensitive than most PCR tests and may be necessary to confirm antigen test results with a PCR test.

For more information regarding different types of COVID-19 tests available, please visit credible sites, such as the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) website](#).

What educational resources are out there for members regarding OTC COVID-19 tests?

Envolve Pharmacy Solutions has launched a [COVID-19 resources hub](#) with helpful information and reference material related to the pandemic and steps everyone can take to stay safe and informed. For more information regarding OTC COVID-19 tests, please visit reputable sources such as:

- [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#)
- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#)