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NH DIVISION OF Public Health Services
Improving health, preventing disease, reducing costs *for all*
Department of Health and Human Services

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Outbreak, Update # 21
Updated Recommendations on Antigen Testing
New School Guidance

Key Points and Recommendations:

- NH DPHS continues to recommend that schools and businesses exclude persons with new or unexplained symptoms of COVID-19, even mild symptoms (e.g., rhinorrhea, nasal congestion, etc.). If these individuals are not tested for COVID-19 (using a PCR- or antigen-based test), then they should be excluded for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms following guidance for discontinuation of isolation.
- Multiple antigen-based tests are available for rapid diagnosis of COVID-19 under the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). See the table below for a summary of the different tests and characteristics, including links to manufacturer instructions.
    - We continue to recommend that antigen testing be used only in symptomatic individuals and advise against their use for screening or testing asymptomatic persons.
    - Use of antigen testing should ideally occur within 5 days of symptom onset, even though newer platforms (LumiraDX and BinaxNOW) allow for testing longer after symptom onset.
- To facilitate rapid testing for symptomatic persons, NH Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) recommends that providers and ambulatory practices consider implementing point-of-care testing for their patients, as previously recommended.
- Most point-of-care tests (e.g., for COVID-19, Strep, influenza, etc.) are limited by decreased sensitivity. Providers should use clinical judgement when deciding whether a negative result on a point-of-care test (either an antigen- or molecular-based test [e.g., Abbott ID NOW]) requires confirmation with a laboratory-based molecular (RT-PCR) test.
    - When testing is conducted early after symptom onset and suspicion is low for COVID-19 (e.g., community transmission is low, patient does not have an identified exposure risk for COVID-19, etc.), confirmation of a negative result may not be necessary.
    - Consider confirming any negative result in a symptomatic patient with a high suspicion for COVID-19 (based on risk factors, symptoms, etc.).
- Most point-of-care tests are not automatically reported to NH DPHS. Therefore, providers must report all positive test results from point-of-care testing (including PCR- and antigen-based tests) by submitting a completed COVID-19 Case Report Form.

School Guidance:

- NH DPHS has released new guidance for schools (grades K-12) defining levels of community transmission and school impact to guide when schools should consider transitioning between different instructional models (in-person vs. hybrid vs. remote).
- To facilitate tracking community transmission and school impact, a new data analytics dashboard has been created and will be updated daily (see "Schools" tab): https://www.nh.gov/covid19/dashboard/overview.htm.

Communication and Partner Engagement:

- Webinar for **long-term care facilities (LTCFs)** and **congregate living settings** every **Wednesday** from **12:00 – 1:00 pm**:
  - Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j/511075725
  - Call-in phone number: (929) 205-6099
  - Meeting ID: 511 075 725
- Webinar for **healthcare providers** and **local partners** every **Thursday** from **12:00 – 1:00 pm**:
  - Zoom link: https://zoom.us/s/94841259025
  - Call-in phone number: (646) 558-8656
  - Meeting ID: 948 4125 9025
  - Password: 003270
- **UPDATE**: Webinar for **school partners** every **Thursday** from **3:30 – 4:30 pm**:
  - Zoom link: https://nh-dhhs.zoom.us/j/98062195081
  - Call-in phone number: (646) 558-8656
  - Meeting ID: 980 6219 5081
  - Passcode: 197445

Table: Comparison of Antigen Diagnostic Tests for SARS-CoV-2 Which Have Received Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)

Test Name	Manufacturer	Specimen Types	Maximum Time Frame to Test After Symptom Onset	Positive Agreement (compared to RT-PCR)	Negative Agreement (compared to RT-PCR)	Manufacturer Instructions
BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card*	Abbott Diagnostics Scarborough, Inc.	Nasal Swab	7 days	97.1%	98.5%	Package Insert
LumiraDx SARS-CoV-2 Ag Test	LumiraDx UK Ltd.	Nasal Swab	12 days	97.6%	96.6%	Package Insert
BD Veritor System for Rapid Detection of SARS-CoV-2	Becton, Dickinson (BD) and Company	Nasal Swab	5 days	84%	100%	Package Insert
Sofia SARS Antigen FIA	Quidel Corporation	NP or Nasal Swab	5 days	96.7%	100%	Package Insert

***NP**: nasopharyngeal; **RT-PCR**: reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction*
***** Note: BinaxNOW does not require a separate instrument for testing

- For any questions regarding this notification, please call the NH DHHS, DPHS, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at (603) 271-4496 during business hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.).
- If you are calling after hours or on the weekend, please call the New Hampshire Hospital switchboard at (603) 271-5300 and request the Public Health Professional on-call.
- To change your contact information in the NH Health Alert Network, please send an email to DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov.

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From:	Benjamin P. Chan, MD, MPH, State Epidemiologist
Originating Agency:	NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

Attachments: None