## Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

## **Frequently Asked Questions for the COVID-19 Testing Program & Reporting Positive Results to DESE,**

## **August 24, 2021, updated September 22, October 7, and October 22, 2021**

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**General**

1. **Can schools/districts choose different testing for different schools within a district?**

Yes. A district may choose to implement different modes of the DESE testing program at different schools within a district.

1. **Can schools/districts change testing modes during the school year.**

Yes. A school/district may choose to add or subtract a testing mode at any point during the school year by coordinating with their program coordinator at CIC Health.

1. **Is it called "routine covid pooled testing" or "routine covid safety checks"?**

The testing strategy known as “Pooled Testing” is now referred to by DESE as “Routine COVID Pooled Testing” for districts and schools. DESE conducted focus groups with representative groups of parents/guardians to identify barriers to participation. A key takeaway was that the phrase “pooled testing” did not engender trust – parents were led to believe that their students would be kept out of school. They equated the word “pooled” to “random” which sounded inaccurate and inefficient. Using the phrase “Routine COVID Safety Checks” produced positive reactions from the focus group. Participants found that this phrase promoted the welfare of students and was less intimidating than being “tested” each week. DESE recommends that all parent/guardian facing materials (parent letter, consent form/district website information) use this phrase, Routine COVID Safety Checks.

1. **Will private schools have access to this pool testing service?**

Yes. The DESE testing program is open to all public school districts, charter school districts, education collaboratives, approved special education schools, and private schools (including parochial and religious schools). DESE has not released guidance on the issue of private schools receiving services from the federally funded K-12 testing program, and it is suggested that private schools consult their legal counsel to address these questions. All schools, regardless or school type, must apply through the application on the COVID-19 Testing Program section of the DESE [website](https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/testing/default.html#application).

1. **Do schools/districts bear any costs associated with the COVID-19 testing program?**

All services described in the [SY22 COVID-19 Testing Program Memo, August 11, 2021](https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/testing/2021-0811covid19-testing-pogram.pdf) and [SY22 COVID-19 Testing Program Webinar Slides, August 11, 2021](https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/testing/2021-0811webinar-slides.pptx) are provided free of charge to participating schools/districts. Schools and districts are responsible for any other costs associated with this testing program.

1. **What is the deadline for submitting the application? How quickly after applying will DESE connect a school/district with CIC Health?**

There is no closing date for the application, but schools/districts are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. ​Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, and schools/districts can expect to be connected with CIC Health within a few days of submitting their application.

1. **Which components of the DESE testing program can staff participate in?**

School/district faculty and staff may participate in all three modes of the DESE testing program. The program is not open to non-district employees (e.g., town/municipal employees).

1. **If there are supplies left from testing in the spring, can they be used for SY21-22?**

Non-expired BinaxNOW tests procured during the previous school year may be utilized during SY21-22. Extended expiration dates can be found on the [COVID-19 Testing](https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/testing/) page of the DESE website. Schools/districts should coordinate with their program coordinator at CIC Health to determine whether other testing supplies procured during SY20-21 – namely pooled testing kits – may be utilized during SY21-22.

1. **Is this program open to pre-K (and under) students?**

District-run pre-K programs that are located in the same physical location as a K-12 school may participate in the program.

1. **Can public school districts mandate COVID-19 testing?**

No, participation in testing is optional and parents/guardians must provide informed consent to participate in the program.

1. **Who administers the BinaxNOW tests and Routine COVID Safety Checks?** *(Updated 10/7/21)*  
   The BinaxNOW and routine COVID safety checks are administered at school either by trained school staff, including, though not limited to, school nurses, or onsite test specimen collectors (Level II supports). For staff and for students in grades Kindergarten and up, both tests may be conducted by self-administration and observed by trained staff. For BinaxNOW tests, trained staff must conduct the test procedure itself (insert and turn the swab, close the card, and read and report the result).  
     
   All staff observing or administering BinaxNOW test kits within a school or district must complete all BinaxNOW training modules. The BinaxNOW training modules can be found [here](https://www.globalpointofcare.abbott/en/support/product-installation-training/navica-brand/navica-binaxnow-ag-training.html). These modules provide a detailed step-by-step guide to the test process, and the modules should be completed in their entirety prior to staff performing test on individuals. To support training of school nurses, DPH also offers train-the-trainer educational activities to school nurse leaders. To sign up for a training session, please see the [COVID-19 Testing Program section](https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/testing/) of the DESE webpage.   
     
   CIC Health will provide any training related to the administration or observation of routine COVID safety checks.
2. **If a district/school is using its own resources to implement components of the testing program (e.g., Level II support), can they be reimbursed?** *(new 9/22/21)*

DESE is not reimbursing districts directly at this time. Districts may apply for reimbursement through funding provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). A list of eligible costs for testing reimbursement can be found [here](https://www.fema.gov/fact-sheet/fema-funding-covid-19-testing). Recordings of technical assistance webinars hosted by MEMA can be found [here](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/webinars-for-dr-4496-covid-19-federal-disaster-declaration-in-massachusetts). For more information, districts may direct questions to [Disaster.recovery@mass.gov](mailto:Disaster.recovery@mass.gov).

1. **How could schools/districts compensate local individuals that would like to assist with pooled testing?** *(new 9/22/21)*

Schools/districts could do this in different ways: A district may work with CIC to have the individual(s) hired as a subcontractor of CIC, who would then compensate the individual(s). Alternatively, districts may apply for reimbursement from FEMA (see question 12) to cover the costs associated with compensating this individual(s).

1. **Is it the responsibility of the district to provide PPE for any support staff provided by CIC Health?** *(new 9/22/21)*

No. It is the responsibility of CIC and its subcontractors to supply their own PPE.

1. **Are there requirements on the disposal of tests?**

PPE and nasal swabs from a test kit used to determine whether a person has an infection and that are disposed of at a school are not considered medical or biological waste as they are exempt from the definition of pathological waste as defined in 105 CMR 480.010. Such waste may be included in regular solid waste trash provided it is not packaged or labeled as biohazard waste. As a reasonable precaution, used swabs should be sealed in zip lock bags. (*New 10/22/21*)

**BinaxNOW**

1. **How do schools or districts receive BinaxNOW tests? How many BinaxNOW tests can a school or district receive?**

Schools/districts should request BinaxNOW kits through CIC Health’s online form (participating districts should connect with their project coordinator for the link). Unlike last year, schools/districts will not fill out the distribution request on DESE’s website to request BinaxNOW testing kits. Schools will receive an electronic form in their welcome email from CIC Health, through which they may request BinaxNOW tests. If needed, the CIC Health program coordinator may complete the distribution request form on behalf of the school/district. The number of kits that a school may receive is based on their student and staff population and the statewide COVID-19 incidence date. A school may request additional BinaxNOW test kits at any time through their program coordinator at CIC Health.

1. **Do schools/districts need to re-complete the BinaxNOW application and CLIA certificate of waiver if this was completed during the previous school year** *(Updated 9/22/21)***?**

No. A school that completed the BinaxNOW application and CLIA certificate of waiver during SY20-21 does not need to complete the form again. *However, if a school/district is now testing at a new school/location that was not listed under the CLIA waiver, the school/district must complete the CLIA waiver for that location. The CLIA application may be found* [*here*](https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6158268/Application-for-coverage-under-a-statewide-CLIA-Certificate-of-Waiver)*.*

1. **How do we determine of our BinaxNOW tests are expired?**

In May 2021, the FDA approved an extension of the expiration date of the BinaxNOW tests. To determine whether the expiration date extension applies to your BinaxNOW tests, take the following steps (also found on the [COVID-19 Testing Program](https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/testing/) page on the DESE website):

* Locate the “lot number” on the BinaxNOW box
* Determine if the “lot number” appears in the form [here](https://content.veeabb.com/1d09429b-8373-419f-8f1a-d28f9586863a/678e2269-44b7-4c6d-8fa9-0a55a40f30f7/678e2269-44b7-4c6d-8fa9-0a55a40f30f7_source__v.pdf).
* If it does appear, the updated expiration date is the date in the column “New Expiry.”
* If it does not appear, the expiration date is the original date that appears on the box.

1. **When determining whether my BinaxNOW tests are expired, which lot number should I use – the one on the box or on the Ag card?**

The Lot # on the box of tests (also called kit) should be referenced against the expiration date list – not the Lot # on the individual tests. Districts with expiring kits should check whether the expiration date has been extended by downloading the [Abbott BinaxNOW Product Expiration Extension — May 2021](https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/testing/binaxnow-extension-2021-may.pdf). (Also found on the COVID-19 Testing website.)

1. **If a school has another antigen test, can this test be used in place of the BinaxNOW for symptomatic testing and Test and Stay?** *(Updated 10/7/21)*

All protocols developed between DESE and DPH are dependent on the performance of the Abbott BinaxNOW in validation studies. DESE will only provide and pay for the BinaxNOW tests.

1. **Are students and staff allowed to self-swab with the BinaxNOW rapid tests used for Symptomatic or Test and Stay** *(Updated 10/7/21)***?**

Yes. Like routine COVID safety checks, staff and students in grades Kindergarten and up may self-administer the swab while observed by trained staff. Trained staff must conduct the test procedure itself (insert and turn the swab, close the card, and read and report the result). Please see question 11 for more detail.

1. **What are the options if BinaxNOW tests for positive pool members are all negative?** *(New 9/22/21)*

All negative BinaxNOW tests likely indicate an individual of lower viral load that is less likely to be infectious. (See <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33622768/> for more details.)

If this occurs, schools may either (a) conduct a second BinaxNOW test on all individuals (no sooner than the next day, but within 2 days), or (b) retest all individuals utilizing individual PCR follow-up tests (can be done the same day). The follow-up approach when all rapid tests for positive pool members are negative is at the discretion of each school/district. As long as individuals remain asymptomatic, they may stay in school while awaiting individual follow-up test results.

1. **If a school was shipped BinaxNOW tests but ends its participation in the program, what should we do with the tests?** *(New 9/22/21)*  
   Unfortunately, DESE cannot allow you to purchase or keep the tests. Please email [k12covid19testing@mass.gov](mailto:k12covid19testing@mass.gov) to arrange pickup of your BinaxNOW tests.

**Routine COVID pooled testing**

1. **What type of testing methodologies are available for routine pooled testing?**

There are three testing methodologies offered for routine pooled testing:

* **Routine COVID Pooled Testing and School-Based Follow-Up Testing:** a single sample is collected at school; If a pool is positive, follow-up testing at school with either BinaxNOW and/or individual PCR testing as necessary​ (if the BinaxNOW does not detect a positive individual in a positive pool)
  + Samples are collected through a nasal swab
  + Samples must be collected at school. Students may collect through observed self-collection
  + Samples are processed at the Broad Institute
  + A maximum of ten samples are included in each pool
* **Routine COVID Pooled Testing and Lab-Based Follow-Up Testing – *single sample collection*:** a single sample is collected; If a pool is positive, individual Follow-Up testing occurs at the lab, without a second sample collection
  + Samples are collected through a saliva sample
  + Samples may be collected at home
  + Samples are processed at Veritas Genetics
  + A maximum of five samples are included in each pool; samples are submitted individually and pooled at the lab
* **Routine COVID Pooled Testing and Lab-Based Follow-Up Testing – *two sample collection*:** two samples are collected at school, after which both specimens are transported to the laboratory; If a pool is positive, individual Follow-Up testing occurs at the lab using the second sample originally collected.
  + Samples are collected through a nasal swab
  + Samples must be collected at school. Students may collect through observed self-collection
  + Samples are processed at the Broad Institute
  + A maximum of ten samples are included in each pool

1. **What is the turnaround time for the routine COVID pooled tests?**

The turnaround time for pooled tests is approximately 24 hours from the time of specimen collection to results being reported.

1. **Where are the samples for routine COVID pooled testing processed?**

The samples are processed at either the Broad Institute or Veritas Genetics.

1. **Can a school choose which routine COVID pooled testing methodology it prefers?**

Yes. A school/district may choose the routine COVID pooled testing methodology that is most appropriate for its school/district.

1. **If a student previously had COVID-19, should they participate in routine COVID pooled testing?** *(new 9/22/21)*

Individuals who have previously tested positive (on an individual, not pooled, test) in the past 90 days should be excluded. After 90 days, they should be included again in the pools.

1. **Are there training materials for both Broad and Veritas routine COVID pooled testing?** *(new 9/22/21)*

Yes. Training materials for both pooled testing modes may be found in the CIC portal.

**CIC Health Services**

1. **What qualifications will CIC Health Support Staff have?**

CIC Health staff will be fully qualified to perform all aspects of the testing program that they are designated to perform, including sample collection observation and/or administration. Please note that no formal medical or health degree is required for sample collection observation or collection.

1. **Will CIC staff undergo CORI checks prior to working in a school?**

While CIC Health will conduct a CORI check on all support staff, DESE recommends that schools/districts review their own policies for visitors to determine if additional CORI (or other background) checks are needed in addition to those conducted by CIC Health.

1. **Will all schools and districts receive the additional support services provided by CIC Health?**

Any school/district that requests additional support services from CIC Health will receive them. If a school/district does not request support services at the beginning of the program but would like to add a later time, they may do so by coordinating with the CIC Health program coordinator.

1. **If a school or districts does not have a school nurse on site, can CIC Health provide the necessary support services (e.g., specimen collection) for the school?**

Yes. CIC Health can provide support services for test administration even if the school does not have a school nurse on-site.

1. **Can non-public schools (e.g., charter schools, private schools) receive a “district coordinator” as well?**

Yes. All schools that participate in the program – including private schools – are eligible for each component of CIC Health’s support services.

1. **Will CIC Health also coordinate aspects of the Test and Stay program, including identifying close contacts and determining when an individual has completed the maximum number of testing days?**  
   It will not be possible for CIC Health to identify close contacts because they will not have access to class schedules, etc. CIC Health staff will be able to assist in determining when an individual has completed the maximum number of testing days.
2. **If a school/district worked with a different vendor in the Spring, can they continue to work with them for the fall?**

DESE and EOHHS chose CIC Health through a competitive procurement to conduct all testing services through the DESE testing program. While districts are welcome to work with other vendors, DESE and EOHHS will only cover the costs of those services that are provided through CIC Health.

1. **If a school/district worked with a different vendor in the Spring and received support services through one of their subcontractors, can they continue to work with that subcontractor in SY21-22?**

Schools/districts that worked with another vendor in SY20-21 and received support services from a subcontractor through this vendor should discuss the continuing these services with their CIC Health program coordinator.

1. **Can CIC Health provide support services in Western Massachusetts?**

Yes. CIC Health can provide support services in all geographic areas of the state.

1. **Would it be possible for a school to use their own staff for test administration?**

Yes. Schools/districts may use their own internal staff for test administration. CIC Health will provide all training required for schools/districts to conduct testing using their own staff.

1. **What role can the district coordinator perform?**

If requested, CIC Health can provide an individual at the district-level that would oversee and coordinate aspects of the COVID-19 testing programs across all schools. While this individual would be an employee of CIC Health or its subcontractors, they would act at the direction of district leadership to deploy the COVID-19 Testing Program at each participating school. This individual could play a number of roles, including (but not limited to): scheduling testing days at different schools in a district, managing and tracking the consent process, and coordinating the support services provided to schools.

1. **If a school/district previously worked with CIC Health, do they need to re-apply?**

Yes. All schools/districts, regardless of previous participation status, must re-apply to the program.

1. **Will CIC Health provide the standing order for COVID-19 testing?**

Yes. CIC Health will provide and manage any standing order required for COVID-19 testing.

**Consent**

1. **How does DESE recommend that schools/districts acquire consent?**

DESE strongly recommends sending consent forms electronically. Additionally, DESE recommends that the consent form for testing and sample parent letter is included with other back-to-school materials that must be signed by caregivers prior to the school year. All templates (English and translated copies) for consent forms and parent letters can be found on the [COVID-19 Testing Program](https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/testing/) section of the DESE website.

1. **Are the consent forms for the SY21-22 DESE testing program the same as the ones used for SY20-21?**

No. The consent forms for SY21-22 are different, and all individuals will need to re-consent to testing for the upcoming school year. The new consent form allows for schools/districts to acquire consent for all three modes of testing – symptomatic, test and stay, and routine COVID pooled testing – through one form.

1. **If parents/guardians consented to testing for the previous school year, does a school/district need to re-acquire consent for SY21-22?**

Yes. A school/district must re-acquire consent for SY21-22.

1. **Do we have to seek parental consent every time we administer a component of the COVID-19 testing program?**

No. Schools/districts must only acquire consent once for all testing conducted through the DESE testing program.

1. **Can the consent forms be completed electronically?**

Yes. Consent forms may be completed electronically through an electronic platform managed by the school (e.g., the school’s student information system or other similar program) or through the software platform provided by CIC Health. District and schools should use the sample parent/guardian letter found on the [COVID-19 Testing Program](https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/testing/) section of the DESE website to communicate the opportunity to families.

1. **Is there a consent form for staff to participate in testing?**

Yes. Staff consent forms may be found on the [DESE testing website](https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/testing/).

1. **Can consent be “opt out” – that is, all students are automatically consented and parent/guardians must actively retract their consent?**

No, parent/guardians must actively consent to participate in testing. Since the process involves collecting a sample directly from individuals, parents/guardians must provide informed consent for all testing.

1. **Can consent be acquired at any time, or only at the beginning of the school year?**

Consent may be acquired at any point in the school year. DESE strongly recommends sending this consent form home with other back-to-school materials to acquire consent as early as possible.

1. **Can CIC support services support the retrieval and management of consent?**

Yes. CIC Health’s support services, particularly the district program coordinator position, can support the retrieval and management of consent. Schools/districts should coordinate with their CIC Health program coordinator to ensure that this service is provided to their school/district.

1. **Is there an option for parents to consent to only one mode of testing, rather than all three?** *(Updated 9/22/21)*

DESE encourages schools/districts to acquire consent for all three modes of testing, rather than just one or two. In the event that a school/district decides to add a component of the DESE COVID-19 testing program at a later date, the school will not need to acquire additional consent.

If a district/school would like to allow individuals to select specific testing modes, then the district must collect a paper-based consent (as the CIC software platform does not allow for this option), and the district/school must track the selected testing modes locally. It is not the responsibility of the testing provider or specimen collectors to maintain this list.

1. **Can schools and districts obtain verbal consent to administer COVID-19 testing?** (*New 10/22/21*)

No. Participation in COVID-19 testing requires the school to disclose a student’s identity, demographic, and contact information from education records to the testing provider and requires the school to disclose a student’s identity, demographic, and contact information from education records to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Pursuant to FERPA, 34 CFR 99.30, consent to disclose test results and family/demographic/contact info that accompanies it requires a signed and dated written consent.

**Online platform**

1. **What online platform does CIC Health offer for is testing services? If a school/district utilized a platform through a different vendor during SY20-21, can it continue to use that platform?**  
   This will depend on the platform that schools were using in SY20-21, and which type(s) of testing (e.g. in-lab deconvolution with saliva versus double swabs, etc.) the district wants to do in SY21-22. Not all online platforms support all types of testing, and schools that were using Concentric by Ginkgo will not be able to use that platform in SY21-22 if participating in the DESE program.
2. **If you participate in all three modes of the DESE testing program, will there be three separate online platforms?**  
   Most schools will be able to use a single platform. In rare occasions, some schools may need to use two different platforms, depending on which type(s) of testing (e.g. in-lab deconvolution with saliva versus double swabs, etc.) the district wants to do in SY21-22.

**Vaccine clinics**

1. **Will mobile vaccine clinics be available when the 0-11 population (or a subset) becomes eligible for the vaccine?**

Yes. DESE/EOHHS anticipate continued availability of mobile vaccination units, especially as additional populations become eligible for the vaccine.

1. **Can we offer the student's eligible household members the vaccine as well?**

Yes. DESE/EOHHS encourage any unvaccinated household members to receive a vaccine through a school-based clinic if they wish to do so.

1. **Who staffs the vaccine clinics?**

The vaccine clinics are staffed by providers contracted by the State to perform vaccine administration.

1. **If we have already hosted a vaccine clinic and would like to schedule another one, should we complete the application process again?**

Yes. Please complete the application process again to conduct an additional vaccine clinic. If you previously conducted a clinic and enjoyed your experience with a specific provider, please note this in the application.

1. **Is there a minimum number of people needed to host a vaccine clinic?**

There is no minimum number of people need to host a vaccine clinic.

1. **How long does it usually take for the mobile vaccine clinic to get back to you?**

Response time varies by the current request demand. DESE/EOHHS recommend submitting a request at least one week prior to the proposed clinic date.

1. **If a mobile vaccine clinic is requested and Pfizer is provided, are two dates set up in advance to provide both doses?**

Yes. A date will be scheduled for the mobile vaccine team to return to provide second doses.

**Reporting**

1. **How do districts report positive cases each week?** *(new 9/22/21)*

Districts should report positive individual tests using the Security Portal collection application. The directory administrator for a given school/district has access to the Security Portal. Schools must report the following information: name of school, number of student cases, and number of staff cases.

1. **May the district-level directory administrator provide access to other staff members to report cases?** *(new 9/22/21)*

Yes. Assignment of access to the application is a district responsibility and DESE will not assign on behalf of a district.

1. **Are private parochial schools required to report cases to DESE?** *(new 9/22/21)*

No. Only public school districts, charter school districts, approved special education schools, and education collaboratives are required to report cases to DESE.

1. **If a school/district does not have positive cases during a reporting period, must they still report to DESE?** *(new 9/22/21)*

No. A school with zero cases does not need to report to DESE. Any school/district that does not report their case count will be assumed to have zero cases during the reporting period.

**At-Home eMed Tests**

*This section previously appeared in the standalone eMed FAQ but has now been included here for completeness.*

1. **Can the eMed at-home BinaxNOW tests be used for Test and Stay?**

EMed tests may be utilized **only** if an individual who is currently in the Test and Stay protocol is participating in an athletic or extracurricular activity on a weekend or non-school day. In this case, the individual should receive one eMed test kit to take home on the last day of school prior to the activity, and take the test on the same day as, but prior to arriving at, the event. If the test is negative the individual should show the negative result to school staff (coaches, etc) at the event, and is cleared to participate. The individual should remain masked. If the test is positive, the individual should be treated as a positive case. A school or district should request the eMed tests through their program coordinator at CIC Health.

1. **Who is responsible for distributing the eMed test to a student and ensuring that the protocol is followed on a weekend?** *(new 9/22/21)*

If a school/district chooses to utilize eMed for weekend test and stay, it is the responsibility of the school to distribute the eMed test to the individual participating in test and stay and ensuring that protocols are followed.

1. **How do schools or districts receive eMed BinaxNOW tests? How many eMed BinaxNOW tests can a school or district receive?**

Schools/districts should request eMed BinaxNOW kits through CIC Health. Unlike last year, schools/districts will not fill out the distribution request on DESE’s website to request eMed BinaxNOW testing kits. Schools will receive an electronic form in their welcome email from CIC Health, through which they may request eMed BinaxNOW tests. If needed, the CIC Health program coordinator may complete the distribution request form on behalf of the school/district. The number of kits that a school may receive will be determined by DPH. A school may request additional eMed BinaxNOW test kits through their program coordinator at CIC Health.

1. **Who is the proctor for the eMed At-home test?**

The eMed Certified Guide, who receives a rigorous training and testing certification in the testing process, the terminology, testing administration, and the flow of the Abbott BinaxNOW Covid-19 Ag Home Test.

1. **How soon after the eMed At-home test are results available?**

Results are available approximately 15 minutes after completion of the test.

1. **How do parents submit consent for the eMed At-Home test? Do schools have to manage the consent process?**

Parents submit consent for the eMed At-home test directly within the application that accompanies the test. Before beginning the test taking process, the individual or their guardian must provide consent. Unlike with pooled testing and symptomatic testing, schools do not need to manage the consent process.

1. **How do schools obtain a valid record indicating that an individual’s test was negative?**

After completing the test, eMed provides a certificate indicating the test result (positive, negative, invalid) via email to the test taker’s email address. DESE recommends that schools require individuals to show the certificate demonstrating the test result prior to participating in an activity on a non-school day.

1. **How are results from the eMed At-home tests reported to DPH?**

After the test taker completes their test with the online proctor, eMed will report the results to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

1. **When will the eMed At-home tests expire?**

On April 6, 2021, the FDA granted a 12-month shelf life to the BinaxNOW COVID-19 Home Test, which includes the eMed At-home test. This means the expiration date printed on test kits has been extended an additional three (3) months. For example, a test kit with an expiration date of 2021-09-27 (Sept. 27, 2021) will now expire 2021-12-27 (Dec. 27, 2021).

1. **Are there additional instructions and directions available for downloading the application that supports eMed at-home tests?** *(new 9/22/21)*

Yes. Additional information, including an informational video, may be found at the link [here](https://www.globalpointofcare.abbott/en/product-details/navica-binaxnow-covid-19-us.html).

1. **DESE refers to the at-home tests distributed through the program as “eMed” tests, but the tests do not say “eMed”, but rather “BinaxNOW COVID-19 Home Test.” Are these the same tests?** *(new 9/22/21)*

Yes, these are the same tests. An example of the text appearing on the eMed tests may be found below.