

**MSDH
Congregate/Confinement
Facility COVID-19 Testing
Initiative
Mississippi, November 8, 2021**

Introduction:

With funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) is supporting testing for COVID-19 in congregate/confinement facilities, such as correctional facilities, county jails and mental health facilities. The goal of this program is to slow the spread of COVID-19 in these settings and minimize the impact of COVID-19 through implementation of testing of inmates/residents/detainees, staff, and visitors.

There are two options for facilities to participate in the MSDH Congregate/Confinement Facility COVID-19 Testing Initiative:

Option 1: Facility Conducts COVID-19 Testing

The facility agrees to conduct the testing with facility staff following the MSDH testing recommendations. In this option:

- The facility signs an agreement with MSDH to conduct tests per the MSDH recommendations and receive reimbursement.
- MSDH distributes rapid antigen tests directly to the facility.
- Facility conducts the tests on appropriate staff, visitors, and detainees/residents and reports to MSDH as outlined.
- Facility receives a \$10 reimbursement per test conducted and reported to support testing and mitigation strategies in the facility to prevent COVID-19 transmission.

Option 2: Facility Medical Provider Conducts COVID-19 Testing

The facility partners with a designated medical provider that supports healthcare services for the facility to conduct COVID-19 testing following the MSDH testing recommendations. In this option:

- The facility provides a letter of support designating the medical provider to conduct COVID-19 testing onsite at the facility as outlined in the MSDH testing recommendations.
- The designated medical provider signs an agreement with MSDH to conduct tests per the MSDH recommendations and receive reimbursement.
- MSDH distributes rapid antigen tests directly to the designated medical provider.
- The designated medical provider conducts onsite tests on appropriate staff, visitors, and detainees/residents and reports to MSDH as outlined.
- The designated medical provider receives a \$10 reimbursement per test conducted and reported to the support testing to prevent COVID-19 transmission.

Planning assumptions:

1. MSDH will provide Rapid Antigen Tests Kits to each facility or designated medical provider based on requested need.
2. Each facility or designated medical provider will be required to have a current CLIA certificate of waiver to conduct the screening utilizing the tests provided. **If your facility has already obtained a CLIA certificate of waiver, your facility does not need to reapply.**
3. MSDH will facilitate and pay for the CLIA waiver application as needed by the facility
4. MSDH will provide guidance on the recommended frequency and target population for screening.
5. Each facility or designated medical provider will be required to report to MSDH weekly aggregate testing data on the number of total tests conducted and total number of positive tests conducted.
6. Each facility or designated medical provider will be required to report to MSDH, within 24-48 hours from conducting the test, specific individual information for each positive and negative test conducted
7. MSDH will provide support for both aggregate and individual test result reporting.
8. Each facility or designated medical provider should identify individuals responsible for conducting the testing.
9. Each facility or designated medical provider should identify individuals responsible for reporting to MSDH.
10. MSDH will provide access to training and training support.

Section I—Tests

MSDH will provide BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card Tests to each facility or designated medical provider interested in participating. This test is a rapid antigen test that provides rapid results in 15 minutes. Antigen tests can be an important tool in an overall community testing strategy to reduce transmission.

The BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card Tests do not require a medical professional to collect or conduct the tests. While a nurse is preferable, any staff member can be easily trained to conduct the tests.

The test is well tolerated and uses a non-invasive collection procedure by inserting a swab a short way in the anterior nose.

Training and informational links:

- Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card Test Training and Training Videos
<https://www.globalpointofcare.abbott/en/support/product-installation-training/navica-brand/navica-binaxnow-ag-training.html>
- Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card Test Product Insert
<https://ensur.invmed.com/ensur/contentAction.aspx?key=ensur.523747.S2R4E4A3.20200905.10292.4363018>
- Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card Test Collection Information/Tech Tips
- [120007199 v01 BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card Nasal Swab Tec.pdf](#)

Section II—CLIA Certificate of Waiver

In order for facilities to perform COVID-19 screening with the BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card test, a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certificate of waiver must be obtained for each participating facility. CLIA Waivers are required in order to perform tests that are categorized as simple laboratory examinations (see information at [CLIA Waiver by Application | FDA](#)). **If your facility has already obtained a CLIA certificate of waiver, your facility does not need to reapply.**

Instructions—Each interested facility should complete the attached the prefilled CLIA Certificate of Waiver Application as follows:

1. Complete only one application for each facility.
2. Complete only the highlighted demographic information on page 1.
3. Skip to page 5 and have someone from the facility administration office print, sign and date the highlighted section and return the entire application. This should be an original signature. (There are no requirements for a Director of Laboratory, just someone who will verify that the testing performed is waived).
4. When the applications are complete, please scan and email to CLIA-MSDH@msdh.ms.gov .

MSDH will expedite the approval process and pay for the CLIA waiver for interested facilities. Each facility will receive notification when the CLIA certificate of waiver is approved. This process usually only takes a few days.

Section III—Screening Testing

MSDH recommends routine screening testing of all *asymptomatic unvaccinated* employees, staff, detainees and visitors as an additional measure to prevent further transmission.

Screening testing can identify potential cases and prompt rapid isolation and quarantine of individuals exposed to COVID-19 who are not fully vaccinated.

Considerations for testing:

1. Weekly screening of **asymptomatic unvaccinated** staff, employees, and detainees/residents.
2. Testing of asymptomatic staff and detainees/residents **after exposure**:
 - a. If unvaccinated, immediate testing followed by retest in 5-7 days after exposure.
 - b. If vaccinated, testing at 3-5 days after exposure.
3. Testing detainees/residents **on admission** to the facility.
4. Testing detainees/residents **on discharge** from the facility.
5. Testing **visitors** upon entry into the facility.

Additional Considerations:

- ***Fully vaccinated staff, employees, and detainees/residents (2 weeks after completion of one-dose or two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series) do not require weekly asymptomatic screening.***
- Screening testing is not designed for symptomatic individuals. Any symptomatic or ill employee, staff, or detainee should be managed by the facilities standard medical protocol.

Managing Positive and Negative Screening Tests in Congregate/Confinement Facilities

Positive Screening Tests

- Asymptomatic individuals who test positive with screening test should isolate for ten (10) from the date of the test as long as they remain asymptomatic. If they develop symptoms, they should isolate for a full 10 days from the onset of symptoms and are fever free for 24 hours before returning to the usual facility setting.
- Asymptomatic individuals with a positive rapid antigen test who have a negative molecular based COVID-19 test within 48 hours of the rapid positive do not require further isolation and may return to the usual facility setting. This only applies to molecular based tests (i.e., PCR) and does not include an additional antigen test or antibody tests.

Negative Screening Tests

- Asymptomatic individuals with a negative rapid screening test may continue in the usual facility setting.

Section IV—Diagnostic Testing

- Tests provided by MSDH (BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card Tests) may also be utilized for testing of individuals with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection.
- Symptoms include:
 - Fever (equal to or higher than 100°F) or feeling feverish (chills, sweating)
 - New cough
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Sore throat
 - Muscle aches or body aches
 - Vomiting or diarrhea
 - New loss of taste or smell

Regardless of test result, all symptomatic or ill individuals should be managed by the facilities standard medical protocol (see guidance below)

Managing Positive and Negative Diagnostic Tests

Positive Diagnostic Tests

- Symptomatic individuals who test positive should isolate for ten (10) days from the onset of symptoms and are fever free for 24 hours before returning to the usual facility setting.
- Any individual who tests positive should be evaluated by a medical provider to determine the need for treatment or other supportive care.
- Contact tracing should be performed to determine any individuals who have been exposed (close contacts) and should be tested according to the screening test protocol. Close contacts are identified as any unvaccinated individual within 6 feet of the infected person for at least 15 minutes (the exposure period is cumulative over the day) or greater during the infected person's contagious period. The contagious period is 48 hours before to 10 days after symptoms started (or 48 hours before to 10 days after test if there were no symptoms).
- Any symptomatic or ill individuals should be managed by the facilities standard medical protocol.

Negative Diagnostic tests

- Symptomatic or ill individuals who test negative should be managed by the facilities standard medical protocol.

Section V—Reporting

There will be two components of required reporting: aggregate test totals and individual test results for each person tested.

Weekly Aggregate Test Reporting

Each week, the facility will report the total number of tests conducted in the facility on staff members, employees, and detainees. This reporting will be through a survey monkey platform

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MSDHBinaxNOW>

Individual Test Result Reporting (reported within 24-48 hours from conducting the test)

Reporting of individual results for all positive and negative tests is required and will be entered into the CDC data collection tool called Simple Report.

Simple Report allows each facility to create its own account. Each facility that registers will need to identify an administrator for their account. Once this administrator is verified with Simple Report, they will be able to add additional users for the facility as well as set up additional testing sites.

Reporting through Simple Report provides several benefits to facilities:

- Once facility is set up in Simple Report, the address, phone number, and other facility identifying information will pre-populate each report that is created.
- Once a staff member, employee, or detainee is entered into Simple Report for the first time, that individual's demographic information (address, phone, DOB, etc.) will prepopulate anytime they are pulled up for re-testing.
- Lab reports (both positive and negative) that are documented in Simple Report will be sent automatically to MSDH to satisfy the individual lab test reporting for COVID-19.

Registering your facility for Simple Report:

1. Identify the primary administrator for your facility's Simple Report account.
2. The administrator will go online to <https://simplereport.gov/sign-up/> and complete the registration form.
3. The initial application allows the administrator to specify details about the facility (including CLIA number and type(s) of tests that will be used for testing-in this case BinaxNOW will be the test type).
4. Once the application is completed, Simple Report will verify the administrator's identity and guide them to online training videos.
5. The administrator can then create additional users or sites as needed.
6. Start testing and enter detainee information and test results. (Remember, each detainee and staff member's demographic information will only need to be entered the first time they are tested. After the first test, their account can be pulled up from the existing list of detainees in your system and the new test result added.)

Additional info about creating a new account with Simple Report can be found at <https://simplereport.gov/resources/getting-started/testing-facilities/onboard-your-organization/>

Section VI—Guidance

For guidance and assistance with the screening program, send an email to EpiCOVIDteam@msdh.ms.gov.

Section VII—Enrollment

Steps to enroll in testing initiative:

1. Complete the BinaxNOW application and email the application to OEPR.logistics@msdh.ms.gov.
2. Complete registration for Simple report at <https://simplereport.gov/sign-up/>
3. Complete and email CLIA Certificate of Waiver application to CLIA-MSDH@msdh.ms.gov

After you have completed the application and uploaded the required documents, MSDH will be in contact with your facility to arrange for you to receive the initial allocation of test kits (after the initial allocation, MSDH will provide a mechanism for ordering additional test kits).



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BinaxNOW™ Application

BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 Ag Card rapid test for detection of COVID-19 infection

Return completed application to: OEPR.Logistics@msdh.ms.gov

Requesting Facility: _____	Date of Request: _____
Contact Name: _____	Phone: (____) _____
Email: _____	
Delivery Address: _____	City: _____
_____	State: _____ Zip Code: _____
County: _____	CLIA# _____

REPORTING PLAN

To participate, your facility must have the ability to provide positive results to MSDH by one of these two methods.

Check the one your facility will use:

_____ National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)

_____ Simple Report*

* to enroll in Simple Report sign up here: <https://simplereport.gov/app/sign-up/>

TESTING PLAN (must include frequency)

Number of staff _____ Number of residents/patients/other _____

Describe how you will use this point of care rapid antigen test for detection of COVID-19 infection. If performing serial testing of staff, residents, patients, or other include the frequency of testing.

REQUEST:

Number of BinaxNOW tests requested (1 month supply): _____

Approved applicants will receive an agreement that must be executed before receiving tests. Tests will be allocated weekly based on supply and current MSDH Guidelines for Prioritization and Allocation of BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 Ag Card Rapid Test.

