



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Housing and Community Development

Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid COVID Test

Presentation to Shelter Providers

December 2020



Overview

Goals for Today

1. Review the Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid test and allowable uses
2. Outline steps required to secure Abbott tests
3. Answer questions regarding the Abbott tests

Key Parties

- Dr. Larry Madoff, Medical Director, MA Department of Public Health
- Jeremiah Hay, Senior Strategy Manager, MassHealth
- Adam Schaffer, Deputy Associate Director, DHCD
- Virginia Griffin, Director of Homeless Family/Individual Contracts and Prevention Services, DHCD
- Kaibeth Cruz-Phillippe, Contract Manager, DHCD

This presentation will be recorded and the slides will be shared after the meeting

Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Test

- 150M distributed nationwide; up to 2M to Massachusetts for schools, shelters and other locations at **no cost** to recipients
- There *may* be additional distributions of tests in the future
- The test is:
 - Simple to use
 - Highly accurate
 - Very fast in returning results
 - Able to be used *in shelter* settings
 - Easy to read, like a pregnancy test





Lawrence General Hospital Study

- The Massachusetts Department of Public Health led a study at the LGH Community Stop the Spread site comparing the Abbott BinaxNOW rapid point of care antigen test to PCR.
- The findings from this study concluded that the BinaxNOW had very high specificity in both adults and children and very high sensitivity in newly symptomatic adults.
- The sensitivity of the test across adults and children was found to be 98.6% among those with the highest viral loads.



Approved uses

DPH has approved the following uses of the Abbott test:

- **Symptomatic** individuals
- **Close contacts** of confirmed positive persons and their households
- More detailed guidelines are included in the COVID Guidance document

Additional clarifications

- Shelter providers **do not need “pre-approval”** from DPH/DHCD when determining if guests meet these criteria, although they must meet the requirements specified in DHCD COVID Guidance
- Surveillance testing (regular testing of asymptomatic individuals who are not close contacts of a recent positive) is **not** yet an approved use
- Individual, EA family, and youth



How to Receive Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Tests

Shelters interested in securing Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Tests MUST complete the following steps:

- ✓ Obtain an approved CLIA certificate of waiver
 - Link to form is also in the COVID Guidance document
 - Form should be emailed to DPH; DPH has arranged for expedited processing
- ✓ Secure a signed physician order for testing
 - Sample order is in the COVID Guidance document
- ✓ Confirm ability to maintain an adequate supply of PPE
- ✓ Ensure all testing staff meet training requirements
- ✓ Review consent forms
 - Additional guidance forthcoming
- ✓ Verify ability to complete DPH reporting requirements
 - Additional guidance forthcoming



How to Receive Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Tests - Continued

After all steps on the prior slide are completed:

1. Shelters must attest they have met all steps on this form:
<https://forms.gle/su4NmTcPnNcfwcud9>
 - Please submit **ONE form per agency** (including if you operate multiple shelter types, such as EA & individual)
2. DHCD will share this information with DPH, then provide instructions via email to shelter agencies on how to order tests. Organizations will have monthly maximums on the number of tests they can request, based on their size.
3. Tests will be shipped from DPH directly to providers at the organizational level.



Consent & Reporting

DHCD and DPH will issue additional guidance on

- How to document & secure **consent** from persons (including minors) for testing
- How to report all test results (positive and negative)
 - Reporting will be done via a web-based system; anyone performing tests will need to create an account.



Revised Guidance: On-site testing in shelters during if a cluster is identified

- COVID Guidance document also includes guidance on how to respond to positive cases & mask-wearing; much is reiteration of previously issued guidance, EXCEPT:
- *Previously* DHCD instructed shelters to contact DHCD if:
 - There was an apparent COVID cluster (2+ cases in a congregate setting),
 - Shelters needed on-site testing support, and
 - The local board of health was unable to provide testing. DHCD would then contact DPH
- *Now*, shelters should **contact the on-call epidemiologist at DPH directly** if:
 - There is an apparent COVID cluster (2+ cases in a congregate setting),
 - Shelters needed on-site testing support
 - Abbott tests are not available and the local board of health was unable to provide testing

Call the MA Department of Public Health at [617-983-6800](tel:617-983-6800) to be screened by the on-call epidemiologist at DPH. They may be able to assist with mobile testing units.



Questions

Questions?

Use the chat feature or the “raise your hand” function

Questions after this presentation?

- Questions regarding the checklist and ordering: kaibeth.cruz-philippe@mass.gov.
- Questions regarding use of the Abbott BinaxNOW test (once you receive it): 800-257-9525 8:00 am – 8:00 pm Monday through Friday or ts.scr@abbott.com.
- Questions regarding the CLIA waiver: Call the Clinical Laboratory Program at (617) 660-5385
- Other questions: Adam.Schaffer2@mass.gov