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PIN 21-30-ASC

TO: ALL ADULT AND SENIOR CARE PROGRAM LICENSEES

FROM: *Original signed by Kevin Gaines*
KEVIN GAINES
Deputy Director
Community Care Licensing Division

SUBJECT: **ANNOUNCING THE AVAILABILITY OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S BINAXNOW™ ANTIGEN TESTING PROGRAM FOR CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) FOR ADULT AND SENIOR CARE (ASC) FACILITIES**

Provider Information Notice (PIN) Summary

PIN 21-30-ASC announces the availability of the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH's) BinaxNOW™ Antigen Testing Program for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) for Adult and Senior Care (ASC) facilities licensed by the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD).

Please post/keep this PIN in any facility that chooses to participate in this antigen testing program for COVID-19 in a place where persons in care and facility staff, as well as families and representatives of persons in care in the facility, can easily access it.

[PIN 21-16-ASC](#) allows the use of antigen tests when testing for COVID-19 and recognizes that antigen testing can become an important part of a facility's overall strategy to reduce COVID-19 transmission.

The CDPH's BinaxNOW™ [Antigen Testing Program](#) for COVID-19 is now available to all CCLD-licensed ASC facility types. This CDPH-run program offers many benefits and user-friendly features including, but not limited to, the following:

- CDPH offers a process for CCLD-licensed facilities to obtain a free Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) waiver, which is necessary for antigen testing

- ongoing supplies of Abbott BinaxNOW™ tests which provide accurate results in approximately 15 minutes
- tests are easy to perform involving a simple nasal swab
- tests can be conducted onsite to support decision-making on follow-up infection prevention and control measures (e.g., isolation/cohorting of persons in care and excluding COVID-19 positive cases from entering the facility)
- any staff member can be trained to perform the test
- ability to test all staff and persons in care
- facilities may offer tests to screen visitors before entry
- a free and user-friendly platform called Primary to meet the program's reporting requirements
- ongoing technical and logistical support
- simple method of enrolling in the program

CCLD-licensed ASC facilities that are interested in participating in the CDPH's BinaxNOW™ Antigen Testing Program (Program) will receive a copy of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). The SOP provides detailed guidance on facility participation in the Program, information on the required documentation of trained facility-designated staff, and a pathway to interpreting and reporting COVID-19 antigen test results. This document also outlines how to order and utilize the antigen tests made available through the Program and, when needed, how to conduct confirmatory Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests. The SOP is available upon enrollment in the program. Facilities may directly apply to the CDPH's BinaxNOW™ Antigen Testing Program through its [application webpage](#).

Important! When filling out your Antigen Testing Application Form, please select "Department of Social Services (DSS) facility" under the "Type of Organization" dropdown menu. Then, select the appropriate facility type from the "DSS Facility Type" dropdown menu.

For questions or more information about enrolling in the CDPH's BinaxNOW™ Antigen Testing Program, please contact the CDPH at RCFEbinax@cdph.ca.gov. All CCLD-licensed ASC facility types may use this email for support.

For questions specific to the Primary reporting system please contact: carapidtest@primary.health

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - [Antigen Testing in Long Term Care Facilities](#)
- California Department of Public Health
 - [California COVID-19 Testing Task Force](#)
- California Department of Social Services
 - [CCLD's COVID-19 Information and Resources webpage](#)

If you have any other questions, please contact your local [Adult and Senior Care Regional Office](#).

PIN Summary for Persons in Care

A Companion Guide for Provider Information Notice (PIN) 21-30-ASC Announcing the Availability of the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH's) BinaxNOW™ Antigen Testing Program for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) for Adult and Senior (ASC) facilities licensed by the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD)

The CDPH's BinaxNOW™ Antigen Testing Program for COVID-19 is now available to all CCLD-licensed ASC facility types. This CDPH-run program offers many benefits including:

- ongoing supplies of Abbott BinaxNOW™ tests which provide accurate results in approximately 15 minutes
- tests are easy to perform involving a simple nasal swab
- tests can be conveniently conducted at the facility
- ability to test all staff and persons in care
- facilities may offer tests to screen visitors before entry
- ongoing technical and logistical support
- simple method of enrolling in the program

If you have questions, please contact your care provider, the licensee of your facility, or [the Ombudsman](#) (call 1-800-510-2020), all of whom are available to answer your questions.