

## Purpose:

The goal of this fact sheet is to provide guidance to groups or organizations who are interested in using over-the-counter-(OTC) COVID-19 testing for their members or employees.

## When are OTC tests appropriate?

- OTC testing can be an appropriate testing option for people with or without symptoms.
- OTC testing is appropriate for people returning from travel or vacations and who want a baseline level of assurance of their COVID-19 status before returning to work and other routine activities.
- You should have an ongoing relationship with the person using OTC testing. You should not accept OTC results for people attending single events or experiences with your organization.

## When are OTC tests not appropriate?

- OTC testing is not valid for COVID-19 testing required for international travel.
- OTC testing is not valid to dispute a prior positive test done by a healthcare provider or testing venue.

## Groups/organizations that may benefit from using OTC tests:

- Childcare centers experiencing difficulties in getting healthcare-based testing after an exposure.
- Sports teams that may want to use OTC testing for exposures or to provide assurances prior to regional or out of state travel for tournaments.
- Situations with exposures where there is a delay in scheduling healthcare-based testing of 72 hours or more.
- Situations where there is an employer mandate for testing unvaccinated staff and where healthcare-based testing is not able to meet that need.

## How to collect OTC results from your members or staff:

- Method 1 – In-person use of OTC test kits
  - In this method, the person brings their OTC test kit to the reviewer and performs the test in-person so that the collection and the test result can be directly observed.
- Method 2 – Photo reporting of OTC test results
  - In this method, the person with the kit writes their full name, date of birth and test date on the test card in pen/permanent ink and then takes a picture of the fully resulted test and sends that to the reviewer for your organization.

## What to do with a positive OTC test results:

- The person who tested positive should notify their healthcare provider and seek guidance to see if additional testing or medical evaluation is needed.
- The person who tested positive should report the result to their local health district to allow for contact tracing and to access available services for people who test positive.

