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**DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



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Technical Bulletin

Date: June 7, 2021
Topic: Public Health Considerations for COVID-19 At-Home Test Kits
Contact: Melissa Peek-Bullock, State Epidemiologist
To: All Health Care Providers and Facilities, Local Health Districts

Background

The U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved several COVID-19 at-home test kits. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) updated public [guidance](#) for the use of FDA-approved at-home COVID-19 test kits on May 14, 2021.¹ The State of Nevada recognizes that at-home COVID-19 test kits are a positive step to helping individuals take control of their own health. These tests allow individuals to purchase an over-the-counter COVID-19 test, perform the test in the comfort of their home, and then learn their COVID-19 test result. While this is a powerful tool for individual use, the State of Nevada will not systematically collect or report at-home COVID-19 test results or recognize the results of these tests for public health purposes.

Guidance

Since at-home test kits cannot be verified by public health, the State of Nevada will not request individuals, laboratories, medical providers, or local health departments to collect or report these test results. The reason for not collecting these results is because Public Health Officials cannot determine the quality of specimen collection, verify who took the test, or verify the performance of the COVID-19 test to ensure that a correct result is reported. To this end, individuals are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated as all three FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines are very effective and safe.² The results from all COVID-19 at home tests should not be used to make public health decisions, such as to show proof of a negative COVID-19 status for public health purposes or to end quarantine early for exposed individuals. If an individual is in need of testing that is recognized by Public Health Officials in the State of Nevada, they can visit this [website](#).³ Additionally, the individual should reference the CDC website's instructions on measures they should take to protect themselves and their community if their at-home test kit is [positive](#) or [negative](#).^{4,5}

Questions

For updated guidance, please review the DPBH Technical Bulletin [website](#) and Nevada's COVID-19 response [website](#) regularly.^{6,7} If you have other questions regarding the COVID-19 testing and disease investigation response, please email dpbhpi@health.nv.gov.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/self-testing.html>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

³ <https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/find-covid-19-testing-in-nevada/>

⁴ https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/self-testing.html#anchor_1620926181610

⁵ https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/self-testing.html#anchor_1620925514532

⁶ http://dpbh.nv.gov/Resources/Technical_Bulletins-New/

⁷ <https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/>



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