

Rapid, At-Home COVID-19 Test Kits For UVM Retirees Frequently Asked Questions

The following applies to purchases of at-home COVID-19 tests also referred to as rapid COVID tests and over-the-counter (OTC) COVID test kits

1) What is currently covered in the Vermont Blue Advantage plan?

Answer: Lab-based COVID-19 tests are currently covered for UVM VBA members at no cost share if prescribed by a health care provider. At this time, Vermont Blue Advantage (VBA) does not cover non-prescribed retiree purchases of at-home or over the counter COVID-19 at-home test kits. VBA is a Medicare Advantage and is not part of the recent State and Federal orders related to at-home COVID-19 tests.

2) Are there other ways I can obtain these tests that I should know about?

Answer: UVM members also have access to testing through free testing sites and where supplies are available and free kits distributed by the State or Federal governments, such as <https://www.covidtests.gov/>. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is providing up to 50 million free, at-home tests to community health centers and Medicare-certified health clinics for distribution at no cost to patients and community members.

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is also making available free COVID 19 at home tests through HRSA supported Health Centers and Medicare-Certified Rural Health Clinics. For this program, see <https://www.hrsa.gov/coronavirus/testing-supplies>. Retirees can use this link to find available clinics that might have an inventory of free tests. You can learn more about this program [here](#).

The Biden-Harris Administration is purchasing 500 million at-home, over-the-counter tests to be distributed for free to Americans who want them, with the initial delivery starting in January 2022. There will be a website where all Americans can request at-home tests for home delivery—for free. More information on this federal program is expected soon.