SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

COVID-19 diagnostic testing for essential workers

Testing plays a major role in fighting COVID-19 — for your health, the health of our communities, and to help safely reopen businesses, schools, and more. While testing supplies across the nation have been limited, we have been able to expand access to testing over the past several weeks.

We recommend getting a diagnostic test if you currently have symptoms of COVID-19. If the test shows you're infected, you should isolate to help prevent spreading the virus to others. Testing also helps public health agencies monitor the spread of the disease.

Since there's a limited supply of tests throughout the country and we currently have more requests than tests, we need to prioritize testing done by Kaiser Permanente to high-risk patients first. To ensure essential workers who don't have symptoms (asymptomatic) can get tested, they can go to any licensed facility outside of Kaiser Permanente and the cost of the test will be covered. We are rapidly expanding our testing capacity and will communicate when additional testing is available at Kaiser Permanente.

Essential workers

Based on Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) guidelines, essential workers are people with frequent interactions with the public or with people who may have COVID-19 or have been exposed to SARS-CoV-2 in the following industries:

- Public transportation
- Corrections
- Retail and manufacturing
- Emergency services
- First responders
- Food services
- Agricultural or food manufacturing
- Health care sector
- Congregate care
- In-home supportive services
- Education

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Getting tested outside of Kaiser Permanente

To receive a diagnostic test for COVID-19, asymptomatic essential workers should go to an external licensed, independent facility (for example, CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, or other retail locations or a private lab). Many of these facilities bill Kaiser Permanente directly, so members may not have to pay anything out of pocket. If charged, members should go to kp.org/coverageandcosts and follow these steps to request reimbursement for a COVID-19 test taken outside Kaiser Permanente:

1. Below "Helpful resources," click "Submit a claim."

2. Below "Claim forms," click the PDF to download. (If you're redirected to our Claim Services website, select "Documents and Forms" from the Resources menu and then download the medical claim form.)

3. Fill out the form and then mail it to the address listed on the form.

Employers may prefer to engage with a lab vendor (such as Quest or LabCorp or another licensed lab vendor) to provide testing for employees. If so, please have the lab submit claims directly to Kaiser Permanente via existing claims submission processes. Kaiser Permanente will provide reimbursement for the cost of the test as long as it's conducted by a licensed facility.

Frequency of testing

Kaiser Permanente continues to comply with all state and local public health guidance on testing frequency.

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