

Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid antigen testing

The State of Kansas has a supply of rapid antigen tests from Abbott called the BinaxNOW. This rapid test can be used for repeated screening of asymptomatic, unexposed, individuals through the use of a self-administered nasal swab, or on symptomatic individuals. The test takes 15 minutes to get results and can be used to identify early positive COVID-19 cases with the goal of early isolation of cases and quarantine of close contacts to reduce the spread of the virus.

How do the BinaxNOW tests work?

The individual will use a nasal swab to swab the inside of each nostril for 5 seconds. The swab is then placed into a card with reagent and results are read after 15 minutes.

Is there a cost to use the BinaxNOW tests?

At this time, there is no cost to use the BinaxNOW tests when provided by the state. The availability of the tests depends on the supply and funding.

Where can I learn more?

You can see a demonstration of the BinaxNOW test here: www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/170/Healthcare-Providers (It is the first video under the “Videos” tab)

For use on individuals without symptoms or known exposure

Example: Regular and repeated testing of individuals who do not have symptoms but have the potential for exposure.

What happens if I get a positive result? Use of the BinaxNOW may result in some false positives. If you are not symptomatic but receive a positive result, you'll need to have a laboratory-confirmed PCR test done within 48 hours and should isolate at home away from others until that result comes back. As long as the sample for the PCR test is taken within 48 hours of the BinaxNOW test, the result of the PCR test should be relied on.

For use on individuals who develop COVID-19 symptoms

Example: As a diagnostic test for individuals who begin showing COVID-19 symptoms.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19? Fever, chills, rigors, myalgia, malaise, headache, sore throat, lower respiratory illness (cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing), new smell and taste disorders, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea without an alternate more likely diagnosis.

When should the test be administered? The test should be administered within the first 7 days of the onset of symptoms.

What happens if I get a positive result? Positive results on symptomatic people do not need to be confirmed with another test. The individual who tests positive should isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms or until they have been fever-free for at least 72 hours and have a significant improvement in symptoms, whichever time period is longer.

For more information on obtaining Abbott BinaxNOW tests, please contact Lacey Kennett, KDHE Preparedness Public Information Officer at Lacey.Kennett@ks.gov or 785-296-1984.