



## Health Alert Network Message 21-27: REVISED MESSAGE COVID-19 Testing Supplies (VTM & BinaxNow) Available from the Office of Public Health (OPH)

**Origination Date:**  
March 16, 2021

**Revision Dates (List All Revision Dates):**  
March 16, 2021

**COVID-19 Testing Supplies Availability from OPH (Viral Transport Media [VTM] and Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Antigen Tests). This is a REVISION of the earlier VTM Availability Message.**

### **Viral Transport Media (VTM) Available from OPH**

LDH Office of Public Health has federal supplies of **media and swabs** that we would like to provide where needed. You may request an allocation by responding to this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5JQQSTY>.

#### **1. How do I request media and swabs for COVID-19 testing?**

Please respond to this survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5JQQSTY>.

#### **2. What type of media will I get?**

We have Remel Microtest M4RT that will expire beginning in December 2021. We will prioritize minimizing waste of federal COVID-19 testing supplies and make allocations based on the number of samples you collect in a week and the expiration date of the supplies.

#### **3. Will we get swabs with the media?**

Prior to delivery, you will be contacted about what swabs you may need to go with the media (nasal or NP).

#### **4. Is this a one-time allocation?**

We will be happy to continue making allocations as long as supplies last.

#### **5. Do you have any guidance around billing for testing using donated supplies?**

The general response is that you may not bill for the specific supplies that you receive for free. However, please verify with the individual insurer on further details for what is and is not allowed to be billed when the provider receives donated or free supplies.

### **Expiration Dates of Abbott BinaxNow COVID-19 Antigen Tests EXTENDED**

Abbott has extended the shelf life on **select** BinaxNOW lots that were originally marked with 6-month expiration dates. Please see the following link to determine if you currently have affected lots:

<https://ensur.invmed.com/ensur/contentAction.aspxkey=ensur.572084.S2R4E4A3.20210302.11031.4297194>

**The expiration dates of the lot numbers listed in the referenced link have been extended by 3 months.** Facilities should keep a copy of the referenced document for any future CLIA inspections.

**BinaxNow is still available at no charge to the end user.** If you would like to request BinaxNow, please e-mail Dr. Runa Bakshi at [Runa.Bakshi@LA.gov](mailto:Runa.Bakshi@LA.gov) .

***Please note:*** *You may not bill for the specific supplies that you receive for free. Please verify with the individual insurer on further details for what is allowed for billing.*