



COVID-19 update

Keeping you informed

Blue Shield of California and Pixel by LabCorp™ have teamed up to offer our members convenient at-home nasal swab kits for COVID-19 testing

As previously shared, Blue Shield members who are essential workers, as [defined by the California Department of Managed Health Care](#) (DMHC), can order COVID-19 home test kits from Pixel by LabCorp™.

We are expanding this option to self-funded and Administrative Only Services (ASO) groups.

Self-funded/ASO group plans have the option to offer their employees who are essential workers at-home test kits through Pixel by LabCorp. Self-funded/ASO groups must opt-in to this service through their Blue Shield account representative for their members to be eligible for this program. These employees must still meet and attest to the essential worker criteria as set forth by the [DMHC Emergency Testing Regulation](#)

Instructions for requesting a home test kit

Eligible members – whether enrolled in a self-funded or fully-insured plan – can visit blueshieldca.com where they will be directed to create an account with LabCorp™ to request a testing kit. When members are on the LabCorp page to request their kit, it is important that they select the “**Blue Shield of California HMO/PPO Essential Worker**” option from the “primary insurance” drop down menu in order to have their kits covered appropriately.

Once the account is created, and order submitted, the test kits will be delivered via FedEx within 1-2 business days. Instructions for how to collect a specimen, return to LabCorp, and access results are all available on the site, as well as in

the delivered test kit.

Eligible members must order the COVID-19 test kit from the custom Blue Shield page linked above for the test kit to be covered. If an ineligible orders a test, they may be charged the full, out-of-pocket price of \$119 for a single test kit. Test kits ordered by members directly from LabCorp™ or by other means will not be covered. Cost-shares, based on members' specific plan benefits, will apply for these tests. As a reminder, the federal mandate for no-cost COVID-19 testing applies only when the test is obtained under a provider order for all plan types.

We have updated our testing resources— [available here](#)—to include the new Pixel by LabCorp™ testing option. These resources are intended to provide guidance on COVID-19 testing and coverage across many scenarios.

As a reminder, coverage for this essential worker testing does not apply to members enrolled in Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplemental, Medi-Cal or MediConnect plans , or for members in self-funded/ASO groups that have not opted in. Members in self-funded/ASO plans can confirm eligibility by contacting the customer care phone number on their card.

REMINDER: We understand certain testing companies may solicit COVID-19 testing services, including on-site testing. Testing that does not meet the applicable coverage requirements of the FFCRA/Cares Act (provider-ordered testing based on symptoms exposure) or the DMHC essential worker emergency regulation is not a covered benefit, and Blue Shield would not be responsible for the cost of such testing.

For more information about COVID-19 testing, visit our [resource page for brokers and employers](#).

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