

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. Information about testing is changing often and while testing supplies across the nation have been limited, we continue to expand testing.

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 spread. Testing also helps public health agencies monitor the spread of the disease.

Kaiser Permanente is currently testing members with and without symptoms, including essential workers.

To self-schedule a diagnostic test for COVID-19, Kaiser Permanente members can complete an e-visit or contact their doctor's office. For an e-visit, members need to sign in to kp.org, select an e-visit and choose COVID-19. Test results are usually available within 3 days.

Frequency of testing

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

Essential Workers

Based on Department of Managed Healthcare (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
- Agricultural or food manufacturing
- Health care sector
- Congregate care
- In-home supportive services
- Education

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Getting tested outside of Kaiser Permanente

In addition to testing available through Kaiser Permanente, members may choose to be tested at an external licensed, independent facility (for example, CVS, Walgreens, Walmart or other retail locations or at 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 is FDA approved and conducted by a licensed facility.