



WELLCOMEMD



COVID Updates - COVID Testing

The extremely transmissible COVID-19 Omicron variant now makes up a vast majority of U.S. cases since becoming the dominant strain in the U.S. this past December.

In cities with some of the country's earliest Omicron surges, the death rate is not as high as it has been during the previous peak. "But even with a lower hospitalization rate and death toll, the extraordinarily high case count is severely straining hospitals, and getting a test is more important than ever," WellcomeMD's Dr. Neal Carl warns.

Testing at WellcomeMD clinics

If you feel you may have been exposed, **please contact our office immediately.** Your doctor can help determine the best testing and treatment options for you,

based on your health history.

The best time to get tested is at the [onset of symptoms](#), even mild ones. If the rapid COVID-19 test is negative, we then recommend a rapid flu test. Flu test results return in as little as 15 minutes, and if caught within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms, we can prescribe medication to lessen symptoms and help stop the spread of the virus.

WellcomeMD currently has both polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and Rapid-Antigen tests. We offer two different kinds of PCR test for our members. The BioReference test is covered by most insurance plans and takes an average of 4 to 5 days to return results. The Soft Cell test, has a turnaround time of 2 to 3 days, costs \$30 for the saliva test, \$20 for the nasal test, and \$60 for overnight shipping.

Rapid tests can get results in as little as 15 minutes. There is a nation-wide shortage, and WellcomeMD has a limited supply. If you are asymptomatic or need to be tested for travel purposes, we offer PCR tests.

Home tests are now covered by insurance

The White House, [announced](#) Tuesday, if you have health insurance, it will cover the cost of FDA-approved over-the-counter at-home COVID-19 tests beginning Saturday, January 15th -- up to eight tests per person each month. For instance, a [family of four](#) all on the same plan would be covered for up to 32 at-home tests per month.

Starting on Saturday, the tests will [either be free](#) directly at the point of sale -- if your health plan provides for direct coverage -- or by reimbursement if you are charged for your test. At this time, Medicare will not reimburse for at-home COVID-19 tests. The tests are hard to find for now, but check your local pharmacies to ask when supplies will be replenished.

Let WellcomeMD help you navigate these complex issues. We're honored to be your healthcare partner.

