



TO: City of Boston Health Insurance Covered Members

SUBJECT: COVID Rapid Testing through Health Plan Announcement

Purpose	<p>On Monday, January 10, the federal government issued guidance that insurance carriers and plan sponsors (such as the City of Boston) will be required to cover the cost of up to 8 at-home/over-the-counter rapid test kits for COVID-19 each month, in response to the widespread impact of the Omicron variant. However, this federal guidance is unusual in nature and will take time to implement fully.</p> <p>The health of our members is our priority, as always. We are working to implement this new coverage for over-the-counter at-home COVID tests as quickly and simply as possible. We expect the processes with each health plan to continue to evolve.</p>
Policy	<p>In accordance with the Federal Government mandate effective January 15, 2022, the City of Boston will cover the cost of up to 8 FDA-authorized at-home/over-the-counter rapid test kits for COVID-19 per member per month.</p>
Covered Members	<p>This policy applies to City of Boston health insurance covered non-Medicare and Medicare members, regardless if an active employee or retiree.</p>
Cost to Members	<p>Members will be able to obtain OTC test kits at no cost from preferred pharmacy providers as indicated by their respective health plan. The process is subject to the individual health plan - tests may be obtained by providing a pharmacy card or submitting for reimbursement. There will also be maximum price controls in place for reimbursement for tests purchased outside a preferred pharmacy network. <u>Members must refer to their individual health plan for additional guidance.</u></p>
Effective Date	<p>This policy is effective as of Saturday, January 15, and will remain in place for an unspecified period of time.</p>

<p>Health Plan Contact Info</p>	<p>AllWays Health Partners Phone: 866-567-9175 Website: https://go.allwayshealthpartners.org/coronavirus</p> <p>Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Phone: 888-714-0189 Website: www.bluecrossma.org/myblue/coronavirus-resource-center#get-tested</p> <p>Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Phone: 888-333-4742 Website: www.harvardpilgrim.org/myoptions/coronavirus-your-guide-to-care</p> <p>Tufts Health Plan Phone: 800-701-9000 Website: https://tuftshealthplan.com/covid-19/home</p>
<p>Additional Resources</p>	<p>The Federal Government is allowing individuals to order up to four at-home tests per residential address, to be delivered by the U.S. Postal Service by visiting www.covidtests.gov</p> <p>If you would like to find a location to schedule a free PCR or lab-performed COVID test, please visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-covid-19-test • www.boston.gov/health-and-human-services/covid-19-health-and-testing-information <p>The state government is also working to distribute over 2 million self-tests in over 100 communities that the pandemic has particularly impacted. For further information on the availability of these free tests, please go to www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-self-test-distribution</p> <p>For information on free tests distributed to community health centers by the federal government, you may go to www.hrsa.gov/coronavirus/testing-supplies</p>

If you have any further questions or concerns, contact your health plan or the City of Boston Health Benefits & Insurance office at hbi@boston.gov or 617-635-4570.