

Testing Task Force Update

New tests reported: **254,504**

Down from peak of ~360,000 tests/day in early January

Average test positivity

past 7 days : **6.1%**

down 0.3% from last week, and up 5.3% from early June

Average test turnaround time last week: **1 days**

- **< 2 days: 94%**
- **< 1 day: 79%**

Reminders

- **Antigen and PCR tests are just as effective for the Delta Variant as other COVID-19 strains**
- **Antigen tests may be more sensitive to the Delta variant since viral loads have been higher with Delta.**
 - If you have COVID-19, you may be more likely to test positive with the delta variant.
- **There has not been an increase in false positive or false negative antigen tests due to Delta.**
 - Bind to the nucleocapsid protein in SARS-COV-2, no mutation with variants
 - Mutation has occurred at the spike protein.
- **Antigen tests are highly specific for COVID-19.**
 - If you do not have COVID-19 you will likely test negative.
 - PPV of a positive test increases when case values are higher since the pretest positivity is higher.
 - Currently, a positive antigen test is likely positive.
 - Symptomatic within 0–7 days of symptom onset and positive -> diagnostic for COVID-19, no further testing needed
- **Confirming positive antigen tests**
 - Molecular test within 24 hours of antigen test, at most 48 hours.
 - The state antigen testing program, Positive and symptomatic negatives -> confirmatory molecular test.
- **To reduce false positives:**
 - Read the directions
 - For a positive result: pink to purple band in the sample window that goes across the entire test strip.
 - If the pink to purple band does not go from edge to edge across the test strip this is negative.
 - Keep card flat -> Don't spill the reagent.
 - If there is a question about whether an antigen test is positive, have an additional person review the test card or conduct a confirmatory molecular test.
- **To reduce false negative antigen tests:**
 - 15 seconds in each nostril

Reminders

- Anyone can supervise self-collection of anterior nasal specimens for testing if trained.
- To learn who can perform collection of COVID-19 specimens go to laboratory field services. [COVID-19 for Laboratories: FAQ's \(ca.gov\)](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Laboratories-FAQ.aspx)
- Medical directors can issue standing orders to test visitors and staff
- Access testing resources through your local MOHAC if you have a CLIA license or through **testing.covid19.ca.gov** if you do not.
- There are 3rd party software to help ease the administrative burden of test reporting to Calredie for a low cost.