

# Testing Task Force Update

New tests reported: **262,080**

Average test positivity

past 7 days : **5.4%**

down 0.7% from last week

Average test turnaround time last week: **1.1 days**

- **< 2 days: 93%**
- **< 1 day: 75%**

# 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.
- **Confirming positive antigen tests**
  - Molecular test within 24 hours of an antigen test, at most 48 hours.
  - The state antigen testing program, Positive and symptomatic negatives -> confirmatory molecular test.

# 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 \(ca.gov\)](#)
- Positive and non-positive antigen tests must be reported
  - There are 3<sup>rd</sup> party software to help ease the administrative burden of test reporting to CalREDIE for low cost or free, including the NAVICA app for BINAXnow tests. Go to lab field services website for more info.
  - [Letter to Laboratories: Testing for SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 \(ca.gov\)](#)
- Health facilities should not use OTC tests, must use tests that require a CLIA license
- Access testing resources through your local MHOAC if you have a CLIA license or through **testing.covid19.ca.gov** if you do not.
  - Antigen testing supplies are currently limited. We are working to acquire more supplies and will have an update for next week.