

Testing Task Force Update

New tests reported: **294,988**

Average test positivity past 7 days : **2.5%**

down 0.4% from last week, down from 7.2% from early August

Average test turnaround time last week: **1.2 days**

- **< 2 days: 91%**
- **< 1 day: 72%**

Reported Sept 28, 2021 with data as of Sept 27, 2021.

<https://covid19.ca.gov/state-dashboard/> <https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/>

[COVID-19 Cases Dashboard v2.0 - CA Open Data | Tableau Public](#)

Carestart Antigen tests

- Abbott BinaxNOW antigen point of care tests may be limited for some time due to production and supply problems.
- Carestart antigen tests offer similar performance as BINAXnow based on data that was submitted to the FDA in their EUA application.
- The Carestart antigen tests are approved for use in individuals within 5 days for symptom onset.

	Sensitivity	Specificity
BinaxNOW	84.60%	98.50%
Carestart	87%	100%

(Data from EUA)

- In field use, there was slightly lower sensitivity and specificity in one study compared to BinaxNOW and similar performance to BinaxNOW in another study. Overall their field use is limited.
- Our experience is that BinaxNOW and Carestart have high specificity, meaning that if you don't have COVID-19 you will likely test negative in comparison to Binaxnow.
- With frequent use for screening of staff, these tests should work to identify cases and prevent outbreaks.
- With training and practice, people should be able to perform the tests.
- Please read the IFU carefully
- EUA [CareStart COVID-19 Antigen test - Instructions for Use \(fda.gov\)](#)

Process for starting testing with Carestart

- Facilities that have a CLIA certificate of waiver can request through MHOAC
- Submit new CMS 116 form to LFSCCLIA@cdph.ca.gov.
- Complete COVID-19 Testing Notification link.
- Can start testing as soon as it has submitted this information.
- No need to wait for a response or approval.