

COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test Kits

As a reminder, all Albertans can get free BTNX COVID-19 rapid antigen testing kits for at-home use at participating pharmacies across the province. A large supply of test kits is still available for pharmacies to order from pharmacy wholesale distributors. Pharmacies are encouraged to consider stocking these test kits to support patients and their families who are looking to test for COVID-19 infection.

COVID-19 rapid antigen tests work best when used for people who have symptoms. It is no longer recommended to use a rapid antigen test on someone who does not have any symptoms of respiratory illness. Alberta Health provides information on rapid testing through the [Guidance for At-Home COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Testing](#).¹

Pharmacy teams may be getting questions regarding the efficacy of the rapid antigen tests. BTNX, the company that provides the majority of the rapid antigen tests available to Canadians and Albertans, published a [product analysis](#)² in September 2023. This analysis confirms that the rapid antigen test accurately detects the BA.1, BA.2, BA.4, BA.5 (and its subvariants BQ.1, BQ.1.1 and XBB) strains, and thus can be used for testing in the current environment.

Albertans can find a pharmacy offering rapid test kits online

using the Alberta Blue Cross® [pharmacy inventory map](#).³ Pharmacy teams are reminded to go into the Alberta Blue Cross [pharmacy provider website](#)⁴ to update their site inventory regularly to reflect the actual on-hand inventory for test kits.

Health Canada has authorized a shelf life of 24 months from the date of manufacture. Pharmacy teams are asked to check their supply of test kits, and any that have a printed **expiry date** on the box that is less than 24 months from the **manufacture date** will have an extended shelf life.

Pharmacy teams can verify if an extended expiration date applies for COVID-19 rapid antigen testing kits that DO NOT have a 24-month printed expire date on the box by reviewing the table below. There are several different lots with expiration date extensions between March 2024 and June 2024.

The table below provides information about the affected short-dated expiration product codes with their lots, their current short-dated expiration printed on the box and their new expiration date following this amendment.

Pharmacy teams are asked to update the short-dated expiration dates on affected lots by marking the boxes with the new expiration date to avoid confusion for their clients.

Product code	Lot numbers	Manufacture date	Expiration on box	New expiration
COV-19CSHC2	COVN22030038	2022-03-10	2023-02-09	2024-03-09
COV-19CSHC2	COVN22030039	2022-03-10	2023-02-09	2024-03-09
COV-19CSHC2	COVN22030040	2022-03-10	2023-02-09	2024-03-09
COV-19CSHC2	COVN22030041	2022-03-10	2023-02-09	2024-03-09
COV-19CSHC5	COVN22030101, COVN22030102, COVN22030103, COVN22030104, COVN22030105, COVN22030106, COVN22030107, COVN22030108	2022-03-12	2023-02-11	2024-03-11
COV-19CSHC2	COVN22030042	2022-03-12	2023-02-11	2024-03-11
COV-19CSHC1	COVN22040034	2022-04-21	2023-03-20	2024-04-20
COV-19CSHC5	COVN22060001, COVN22060002, COVN22060003, COVN22060004, COVN22060005, COVN22060006, COVN22060007, COVN22060008, COVN22060009, COVN22060010, COVN22060011, COVN22060012, COVN22060013, COVN22060014, COVN22060015	2022-06-07	2023-05-06	2024-06-06

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Product code	Lot numbers	Manufacture date	Expiration on box	New expiration
COV-19CSHC5	COVN22060016, COVN22060017	2022-06-08	2023-05-07	2024-06-07
COV-19CSHC5	COVN22060018, COVN22060019, COVN22060020, COVN22060021, COVN22060022, COVN22060023, COVN22060024, COVN22060025, COVN22060026, COVN22060027, COVN22060028, COVN22060029, COVN22060030, COVN22060031, COVN22060032	2022-06-08	2023-09-07	2024-06-07
COV-19CSHC5	COVN22060033, COVN22060034, COVN22060035, COVN22060036, COVN22060037	2022-06-14	2023-09-13	2024-06-13

Data elements for direct bill claiming

Pharmacy team members can submit a claim for \$60 per case to Alberta Blue Cross for each case of test kits they order and receive from their primary pharmacy wholesale distributor (McKesson, Imperial, Kohl & Frisch or Matrix SDM).

- **Carrier code:** 16
- **Group number:** 23464, section 000
- **Pharmacy license number**
- **Pharmacist license number**
- **Client number:** pseudo-PHN CV00000000
- **Client's full name:** use "Rapid" for first name and "Test" for last name
- **Client's date of birth:** use any combination of numbers that satisfy the format YYYYMMDD
- **Client's gender:** use F or M
- **Relationship code:** enter zero (0) if needed
- **Prescriber ID number:** pharmacist license number
- **Prescriber reference code:** 86
- **Quantity:** 1 (only one case may be claimed at a time)
- **Service date:** date case is received
- **Drug cost:** \$0.00
- **Dispensing fee:** \$60.00 per case
- **PIN:** 00071130
- **Special Service Code (SSC):** L

Benefact links

¹ <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/covid-19-information-guidance-for-at-home-covid-19-rapid-antigen-testing>

² <https://btnx.com/files/BA1-BA2-BA4-BA5-Statement-COV-19C25B-and-COV-19C25.pdf>

³ <https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/provider/type/pharmacy/secure-online-site.php>

⁴ <https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/provider/type/pharmacy/secure-online-site.php>

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area)

403-294-4041 (Calgary and area)

1-800-361-9632 (toll free)

FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area)

FAX 1-877-305-9911 (toll free)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefacts and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims.

Visit [ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php](https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php)

