Partnering with the State of California's Valencia Branch Laboratory to Provide COVID-19 Testing

Background Information

What

The State of California has opened the **new Valencia Branch Laboratory (VBL)** with the goal of dramatically increasing daily COVID-19 testing by another 150,000 tests per day with a rapid turnaround time of under 48 hours[1]

The test kits provided are **anterior nasal swabs**, which can be self-administered and are less painful than other swab types[2]

Who

For **employers and community organizations** that would like to expand their COVID-19 testing efforts, the State of California is providing **test kits, test registration software, test processing, and technical assistance**

Why

This program aims to make it **easier to start a testing program, ensure timely results** and remove barriers in an organized, cost-effective, and efficient manner
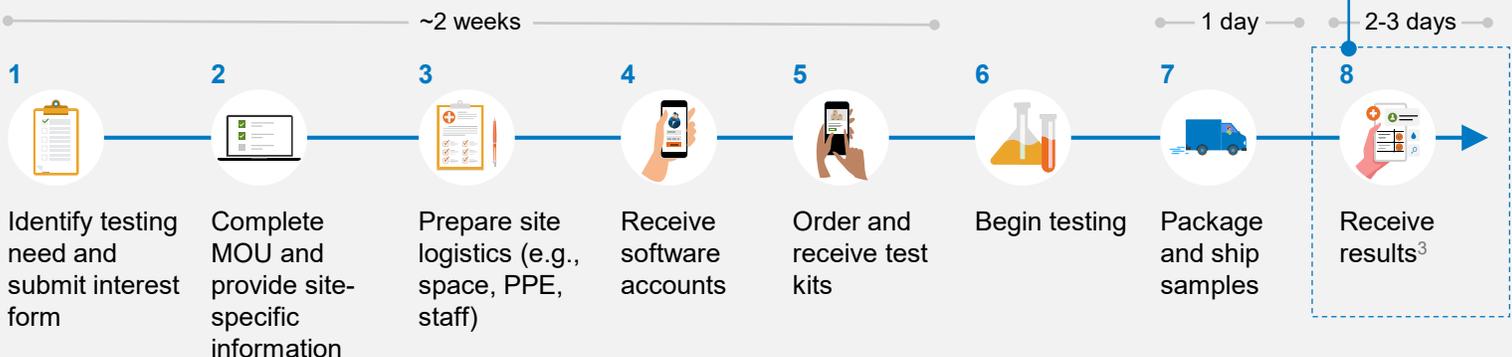
State Responsibilities

- **Test kits**
- **Test processing** and, as appropriate, recoup costs through a third-party biller
- **Sample processing** in the laboratory
- **Results with a 24-48 hour turnaround goal**
- **Detailed support and instructions** for operating testing sites
- **Patient registration system**, and test result monitoring and notification system

Partner Responsibilities

- **Submit request** for required number of test kits
- **Procure PPE and provide physical space** for testing
- **Conduct community outreach** to drive participation in testing
- **Provide staff and manage on-site logistics**, such as patient registration, information collection etc.
- **Supervise self-administered nasal swabs** at testing site
- **Package, coordinate, and cover cost of transportation** of samples

8-Step Checklist to Conduct Testing

This step is completed by the state[3]

Before testing — ~2 weeks — **Testing day** — **After testing** — 1 day — 2-3 days

1. Identify testing need and submit interest form
2. Complete MOU and provide site-specific information
3. Prepare site logistics (e.g., space, PPE, staff)
4. Receive software accounts
5. Order and receive test kits
6. Begin testing
7. Package and ship samples
8. Receive results[3]

Note: You are welcome to partner with other organizations to streamline process and support steps on the checklist.

Next Steps & Resources

- **Express interest in becoming** a testing partner at www.surveymonkey.com/r/CollectionSiteInterestForm
- **Learn more about VBL & the Testing Task Force at** testing.covid19.ca.gov/valencia-branch-laboratory/

Still have questions? Please reach out to the Testing Task Force at Testing.Taskforce@state.ca.gov

1. 48-hour turnaround time goal from the time the completed samples arrive at VBL. 2. Per the CDC.
3. Sites that identify a shared provider or clinician (e.g., MD, RN) are fully responsible for informing patients about positive test results and after care.
Source: California COVID-19 Testing Task Force, CDC Report "Nasal Specimen Collection for SARS-CoV-2 Diagnostic Testing"

California Department of PublicHealth