

RAPID ANTIGEN TESTING

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS





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RAPID ANTIGEN SCREENING: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the difference between the BinaxNOW at-home screening and our required monthly PCR testing?

The BinaxNOW at-home test is a COVID-19 antigen screen and is considered fast, reliable, affordable, and produces results in 15 minutes. The rapid antigen test is used for frequent screening to identify possible asymptomatic COVID-19. The monthly PCR test is considered the gold standard and requires a lab to analyze the sample with a 24- to 36-hour wait for results. The PCR test is used to confirm COVID-19 infection.

Why are we adding more screening when the country is opening up and most people are vaccinated?

Safety:

In addition to daily temperature checks and the Wellness Survey, the rapid antigen at-home screening program will offer our Team Members an extra level of comfort as an additional screening mechanism. This program will allow us to provide an even greater level of assurance that our workplace is safe.

Science:

The Space Needle & Chihuly Garden and Glass has joined a consortium of international businesses to pilot frequent at-home antigen testing. We are sharing our process and results with the consortium. The results will show other businesses the effectiveness of rapid screening as a way to open up the economy and ensure safety for Guests and Team members.

Tell me more about the BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Self-Test?

We will be using the BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Self-Test. It has received FDA Emergency Use Authorization for self-testing without the need for a prescription from your healthcare provider or shipping samples to a lab. The screening test uses a simple nasal swab for specimen collection and produces results in about 15 minutes with a high degree of accuracy, but it is not considered a diagnostic test (the monthly PCR test is considered a diagnostic test).

Why are we doing antigen screening twice a week?

Rapid antigen screens are very useful for detecting infectiousness. People can be infectious two to three days before symptom onset. Thus, screening Team Members twice per week ensures we can detect people during their infectious stage and protect our workplace. If we only screen Team Members once per week (or less), our workplace is at significantly greater risk of outbreak. To control transmission, it is better to screen more frequently (i.e., at least two days a week) with a less sensitive test than less frequently (i.e., only once per week) with a more sensitive test.

Is it mandatory for me to take the rapid antigen test?

Yes, all Team Members working onsite are required to be screened twice a week using the rapid antigen at-home screening test. Some departments, such as Elevator Operators, are required to be screened prior to each shift due to the fact that they work in a confined space with Guests for several hours per day. This will help us to ensure everyone's safety in the workplace.

How will I record my at-home test results?

You will receive training on how to administer and interpret your test results. All Team Members will record the results using a secure website via Jot Form. You will receive a QR code or website address that will point you to a website where you will complete a simple "jot form" and upload a photo of your test results. The entire process will take about five minutes of active time to take the test and complete the jot form, plus 15 minutes of waiting time for the test results.

Do I need to participate in the at-home screening if I have been COVID-19 vaccinated?

Yes, you will still need to be screened for COVID-19, in an effort to provide a safe and healthy environment to all our Team Members and Guests. This test will help us to identify any asymptomatic infections, even in Team Members who are vaccinated.

If I do the at-home test, can I opt out of the monthly PCR testing?

This screening does not replace the lab-based PCR diagnostic testing administered monthly onsite. Team Members who screen positive on a rapid antigen test will need to get a PCR test to confirm whether they have COVID-19.

How is employee personal information protected?

Team Member personal information will be protected by the Space Needle and Chihuly Garden and Glass as per federal, state, and local laws. All information reported via the Jot Form website is encrypted and HIPAA compliant.

How accurate is the test?

The objective of frequent rapid testing is to find as many infectious people as possible as soon as possible so that they can isolate and stop the spread of the virus.

Rapid antigen tests are less accurate than PCR tests and may generate false positive results when used for screening, that is why any positive screens need to be followed up with a confirmatory PCR test. There is also the potential of false negative results, but this can be compensated for by frequent testing.

For this screening purpose, antigen testing is very effective. This screening program is an extra layer of protection added to the existing screening processes already in place and does not replace other public health measures such as symptom screening, physical distancing, masking and hand hygiene. A rapid antigen test is not considered by public health authorities to be a diagnostic test and a preliminary positive result from a rapid antigen test should be followed up with a laboratory-PCR test to act as a confirmatory test.

Can I use my BinaxNOW tests on my family and friends?

The Space Needle and Chihuly Garden and Glass are participating in a rapid antigen testing program as part of a larger study to see how these tests can help provide an additional screening layer for workplace safety. Because we are participating in this group, it is important that all BinaxNOW tests be solely used by Team Members.

If your family or friends are interested in using the BinaxNOW rapid antigen tests, these tests are available for purchase at Walgreens and CVS pharmacies throughout the United States.

Will I be paid for testing and if so, how much?

Hourly Team Members will be paid for 15 minutes each time they complete a test at home. The at-home screening process involves approximately five minutes of time (sample collection and interpreting results). During the 15-minute results waiting period, Team Members are relieved of all duties and responsibilities and are free to engage in personal pursuits.

Our COVID-19 Administrator will review all Jot Form submissions and send a report to Payroll at the end of each payroll cycle. Team Members will only be paid for test time submitted via the Jot Form. Team Members are paid for test time at their primary rate of pay. Please note that any Team Member who provides false or misleading Jot Form submissions will be subject to disciplinary issues.

If Team Members do not take their screening test at home and instead take it while "on-the-clock," no additional payment will be forthcoming.

Why do I have to upload a photo of my test results?

As screening tests results can sometimes be challenging for some Team Members to understand and interpret, we've added an additional layer to the interpretation of results. Should our audit process reveal a different interpretation to your results, our COVID-19 Administrator will communicate with you and may recommend additional screening or diagnostic testing to confirm the accuracy of results. All photos submitted are maintained in a secure, encrypted database with limited access.

What if I'm on vacation or not scheduled to work on screening days?

Team Members are required to take two screening tests per week (Mondays and Thursdays – even if you are not scheduled to work on those days). If you have a scheduled vacation or otherwise will not be working during a standard week, then you will not need to take the twice weekly screenings. For Elevator Operators who will conduct an at-home screening prior to each shift, they do not need to complete screenings on days off, including vacations. Team Members should communicate with their managers regarding any planned time off.

What if I forget to take my test?

At-home screenings are scheduled for Mondays and Thursdays. Team Members who forget to take their screen on these days should take one as soon as they remember to do so. Team Members who do not complete the required number of antigen screens each week may face disciplinary issues.

What if my test results are negative?

If you receive a negative screening test response, after reporting your results, there is nothing more for you to do. But please note that even with a negative antigen test, you must continue to strictly adhere to public health advice and requirements related to COVID-19, including those related to COVID-19 testing, physical distancing, hand hygiene, face masks, and other practices.

What if my test results are positive?

The rapid antigen screen is not a diagnostic tool but is generally considered an indication of infectiousness. If you test positive you will still need to get a PCR test to confirm whether you have COVID-19. If you receive a positive screen, please contact the Human Resources department and a representative will assist you in scheduling a PCR test. You will need to stay home and isolate while you wait for your results from the PCR test. Team Members may use any hours in their FFCRA bank or paid time off while they are self-isolating and awaiting PCR testing results.

What if I lose a test kit or damage the contents?

Team Members should contact the Human Resources department to receive additional test kits.

How should I store my test kits?

Test kits should be stored between 35.6-86°F. Test kit reagents and cards must be at room temperature before use. If test kits are stored in a refrigerator, please allow time to warm up the test kits to room temperature before using.

How can I obtain more test kits?

Please contact the Human Resources department if you need additional screening test kits.

How do I report my screen test results?

We have placed a QR-code sticker on the back, lower right-hand corner of the kit. Using the camera function on a smartphone, Team Members can scan the QR-code to pull up the Jot Form submission form.



How should I dispose of my test kit?

You can dispose of your completed test kit in your household trash. If your screen test comes back as positive, it is recommended to place the completed test kit in a clear, disposable bag before placing it in your household trash, but this is not a requirement.

What should I do if I can't determine the test results?

If you have difficulties in interpreting your test results, please contact the Human Resources department for assistance.

Where can I get more information about the different types of COVID-19 Testing?

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has produced an infographic to explain the different types of COVID-19 tests with key information to help you understand how each of them works. Please visit: https://www.fda.gov/media/140161/download.

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