Testing Options for Employers Working to Meet New State Requirements for Testing in Unvaccinated Individuals

New State and LA County Health Officer Orders require vaccinations or regular (weekly or biweekly COVID-19 testing) for unvaccinated employees in various settings, including health care settings and schools. These require employers and facilities to test and monitor their workforce members. There are a few options available to employers seeking COVID-19 testing to meet these new requirements, summarized here:

- Establish an ongoing partnership/contract with existing laboratories for employee testing.

  - Please click here to review LA County and State laboratory reference lists to find a testing partner. Links to guides are available under Laboratory Information.

  - Please note all commercial and Medi-Cal health plans in California must provide COVID-19 testing and visits with zero cost sharing. Health plans must cover the testing whether the person is symptomatic or asymptomatic and regardless of whether the person has had recent known or suspected exposure to COVID-19. See Department of Managed HealthCare All Plan Letter (7-26-21).

- Take advantage of State Testing resources. The State Testing Task Force supports PCR and Antigen testing programs. PCR tests results are highly sensitive and provide results in 24-48 hours. Rapid antigen tests are performed onsite and provide results in 15-30 minutes.

  - Information is available on the State Testing Task Force Antigen and PCR Testing Resource pages. Click here and enter your organization type to get started. The website will guide you through an application process to access either PCR testing through the Valencia Branch Laboratory or Antigen testing with confirmatory PCR testing.

  - To qualify for the State Testing Task Force resources, employers will need a lab directory, healthcare workers to administer the test, and a CLIA waiver.

- County-operated community testing sites are reserved for individuals who have symptoms or close contact with individual suspected to have COVID-19. Regular screening or surveillance testing is not supported. However, some County testing partners may offer screening or surveillance testing. You can click on https://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing/ to search non-County operated test sites near you and contact them to inquire about testing options.