



# Use of COVID-19 Home Antigen Tests Beyond Their Expiration Date

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) and the California Department of Public Health [endorse](#) the emergency use of COVID-19 home antigen tests beyond their expiration date until further notice.

## How to make sure the test is still good to use

- **Read and follow the instructions in the box carefully.**
- **Check that the control line on the test is visible.**
  - The color should match the color stated in the instructions.
  - If the control line is not visible or the color of the line is different than in the instructions, it is invalid. **Do not use the results of this test.** Take a new sample and use a new test from a different box.

**Test Example**

*Note: tests vary. Your test may look different than the image below. Read and follow all test instructions carefully. The control line may be marked with a "C" or "Control".*

Visible control line that matches the color on the instructions

Visible control line that matches the color on the instructions

Visible control line but **does not** match the color on the instructions

No control line

No control line

Visible test line

Visible but faint test line

Visible test line

No test line

**Test is good to use**

**Test is not good Retest with a new test kit**

For more information, visit [ph.lacounty.gov/covidselftest](https://ph.lacounty.gov/covidselftest).

## References

- California Department of Public Health (CDPH): COVID-19 Antigen Self-Test Expiration Extensions <https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/332/2022/03/Temporary-Extension-At-Home-Test-Expirations.pdf>.
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health: Public Health support of the California Department of Public Health's blanket extension of expiration dates printed on antigen (home) self-tests. <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/docs/memoUseofHomeTestsAfterExpirationDate.pdf>