



From the Desk of Chief Phil Schwartz Melrose Park Departments of Homeland Security – Public Safety

Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests

Free FDA-authorized coronavirus test kits are available through a federal program. Every home in the United States is eligible to order four free at-home COVID-19 rapid antigen tests. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days. Order your tests now so you have them when you need them.

Place Your Order for Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests Go to special.usps.com/testkits.

Residential households in the U.S. can order one set of #4 free at-home tests from USPS.com.

Here's what you need to know about your order:

- Limit of one order per residential address.
- One order includes #4 individual rapid antigen COVID-19 tests.
- Orders will ship free.

Need help placing an order for your at-home tests? Call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489).



A safe and effective vaccine to protect against COVID-19 is now available.

www.cdc.gov

How to Get Your At-Home Over-The-Counter COVID-19 Test for Free Go to www.cms.gov/how-to-get-your-at-home-OTC-COVID-19-test-for-free. COVID-19 Vaccines

Vaccinations against COVID-19 are now widely available at locations including mass vaccination sites or events, pharmacies and doctor's offices.
<https://www.vaccines.gov/search/>.

Thank You and Be Safe!

Illinois Vax Verify System Now Offers SMART™ Health Card Vaccination Verification



New updates to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Vax Verify immunization portal now includes use of the SMART™ Health Card. The SMART™ Health Card allows users to download a QR code, which individuals can use to easily confirm their COVID-19 vaccination status at businesses, events and other locations. Vax Verify is an online system that allows Illinois residents, 18 years and older, to check their COVID-19 vaccination record. Vax Verify can be accessed at <https://idphportal.illinois.gov>.

“As a way to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and keep people safer, some businesses, events, organizations and others are opting to require proof of vaccination before entering,” said IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike. “We’ve seen multiple surges of COVID-19, and more and more people are making the choice to get vaccinated. The ability to download a QR code will help residents confirm their vaccination status when requested.”

The QR code can be downloaded or kept in Apple Wallet and presented for COVID-19 vaccination verification. Businesses wanting to verify vaccination status can download the Commons Project SMART Health Card Verifier App on Apple AppStore and Google Play store.

The verification system follows best practices to protect confidential health information. In order to download proof of vaccination, residents will go through a brief, one-time identity verification process to gain access to their immunization history.

After the verification process, individuals can see their own record in the Illinois Comprehensive Automated Immunization Registry Exchange (I-CARE). Immunization records are kept confidential and only the individual or the individual’s parent or guardian (if the individual is younger than 18 years) can access their vaccination history. Some individuals with very common names will need to take additional steps to securely prove their identities.

Go to vaccines.gov or call 1-800-232-0233 to find COVID-19 vaccine locations near you.