



CLAYTON CHAU, MD, PhD  
DIRECTOR

MINDY WINTERSWYK, PT, DPT, PCS  
ASSISTANT AGENCY DIRECTOR

STEVE THRONSON  
CHIEF OF MEDICAL HEALTH  
SERVICES

TAMMI McCONNELL MSN, RN  
DIVISION DIRECTOR  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

405 W FIFTH STREET, SUITE 301A  
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92701  
TELEPHONE: 714- 834-2791  
FAX: 714- 834-3125  
Email: [TMcConnell@ochca.com](mailto:TMcConnell@ochca.com)

**MEDICAL HEALTH SERVICES**  
**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

**MEMO**

**DATE:** March 28, 2022  
**TO:** Orange County Healthcare Organizations  
**FROM:** Gagandeep Grewal, MD, Associate EMS Medical Director  
**SUBJECT:** **BinaxNOW COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests for Professional Use**

Handwritten initials 'P.N.D.' in blue ink, positioned to the right of the 'FROM:' line.

CDPH has given Orange County a single allotment of BinaxNOW COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests for use in the healthcare setting. These professional use tests require at minimum a CLIA Certificate of Waiver to utilize and are not the over-the-counter version of the tests. The State is recommending that the tests be distributed with prioritization to underserved, vulnerable and high risk populations and settings.

Please keep in mind that because of the large number of healthcare entities, the prioritization constraints, as well as the limited number of tests, distributions will be in the hundreds of tests rather than thousands, but these professional-use tests could be used for a variety of purposes (unlike other recent allocations), including return to work testing, testing symptomatic patients in EDs and clinics, testing during outbreaks and after exposures, and for screening testing.

If you are interested in receiving some of this one-time allocation of tests, especially in helping test targeted populations with a focus on equity, please reach out to the Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) AOC (Agency Operations Center) and submit a resource request as per the instructions.

<https://www.ochcahealthinfo.com/ems/aoc>

Thank you for your ongoing efforts in trying to mitigate the effects of this pandemic and support the residents of Orange County.

Gagandeep Grewal, MD  
Associate EMS Medical Director

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