

**Guidance for Use of Rapid Covid Antigen Testing Kits
COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019)
October 18, 2021**

The Department of Children's Services has been able to procure COVID-19 rapid antigen test kits from Tennessee Emergency Management Agency in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Health. This document refers to the Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen™ (Ag) Card kits only.

The tests come in boxes with the materials necessary to perform 40 tests. Along with instructions, these boxes include:



- 40 Test Cards
- **One** bottle of extraction reagent
- Patient collection nasal swabs (long cotton-tipped swabs)
- One positive control swab

Instructions for performing the tests are included in the box and may be viewed in the video link [HERE](#).

Important guidance for DCS use:

- The tests are solely for use in asymptomatic custodial children and youth [if required or requested by the placement facility or foster parents](#) prior to placement.
- Any child or youth who has symptoms that may be due to COVID-19 should be tested at a health-care facility.
- IF the antigen test is positive, immediately isolate the child or youth and arrange to have them tested via PCR testing at a health department, pharmacy, or health-care facility.
 - Antigen tests may be falsely positive; PCR testing is necessary in an asymptomatic person to determine if they are truly positive. The child or youth needs to remain isolated pending PCR test results.
- These tests are done with nasal swabs.
 - Swabbing of the nose in custodial youth should only be done by the youth themselves or by legal/biological parents or foster parents.
 - DCS staff who are not licensed medical providers are not to swab the youth.
 - If a youth refuses to self-swab and no other acceptable person is available, they should be taken to an official testing site or health-care facility.
- Each box of 40 test cards has only 1 bottle of reagent. The bottle must be kept with the box at all times. Each region shall determine the best method of monitoring the location and use of the boxes.