Email from HHS to BinaxNOW recipients

Hello HHS BinaxNOW recipient,

We are reaching out today to notify you of important updates to our BinaxNOW distribution methods beginning the week of August 23, 2021. In light of changes in national testing levels attributed to the COVID-19 Delta variant, we want to remind you that BinaxNOW allocations are based on both CMS estimates of staffing and county positivity rates and allocation quantities, and cannot be adjusted by request. These allocations are intended to supplement existing testing activities for staff only.

You will continue to receive your total test allocation. However, you will need to rollover your unused tests from one week to use the next week and your shipments will be adjusted to reflect this rollover. Historically, we have typically allocated a surplus of tests to each facility because BinaxNOW needs to be allocated in boxes of 40. **Going forward, you will need to save and carry-over whatever unused tests you receive in a given week for use on staff testing during the subsequent weeks.**

- **If you have unused tests during the week of 8/23/21 (this week), please store any unused tests and use them to test your staff during the next week(s), when you may receive a shipment that is reduced by the amount of unused tests we expect you will have in storage..**
- As an example: Based on staff sizes and CMS guidelines, a facility is calculated to need 20 tests/week. This facility has received 40 tests/week historically, resulting in a weekly surplus of 20 tests.
    - Week 1 (8/23/21): Facility will receive 1 box (40 tests). They will use 20 for their staff that week and save the extra 20 for Week 2.
    - Week 2 (8/29/21): Facility will receive 0 boxes (0 tests). They will use the 20 leftover tests from Week 1 to test their staff.
    - Week 3 (9/5/21): Facility will again receive 1 box (40 tests), to be used over the next 2 weeks. This process will continue indefinitely, and will account for any changes in county positivity level/staff.

    If you find that your facility has acquired a surplus of unneeded tests that you currently have on hand, please submit your information in the Testing Supply Exchange.
- **Note**: Please do NOT donate any surplus you receive from HHS starting the week of 8/23/21 (this week), as you must use any future surplus across multiple weeks as described above. This is only meant for any additional stores you have acquired before the week of 8/18/21.

For awareness, if a facility requests their shipments to be stopped, they must request them to be reinstated. Requests for being removed and added back to the HHS distribution are best handled by contacting Abbott, as these tests are shipped directly from Abbott. Please have facilities contact Abbott Customer Service directly at **ARDxUSGovernmentSupport@abbott.com or 1-877-441-7440.** If additional HHS approval is required, Abbott will contact us directly. Please be aware, it takes approximately 2 weeks for shipments to be stopped or resumed. It is not an overnight process.

Program eligibility is based on being designated as a nursing home or an assisted living facility on your CLIA certificate of waiver. Many facilities are not receiving shipments due to the wrong designation on their CLIA certificate of waiver. If there is any doubt, those facilities must contact CMS to ensure that they have the correct designation. Otherwise they are ineligible. The HHS Distribution Team is not able to make those changes or updates.

If there are issues or questions related to shipment deliveries, those should be directed to **ARDxUSGovernmentSupport@abbott.com**.

If there are questions related to the HHS BinaxNOW distribution Program, those can be directed to the Binax Team Inbox (Binax.team@hhs.gov).

Kind regards,

External Affairs/HHS BinaxNOW Team
HHS Testing and Diagnostics Working Group
HHS COVID-19 Response Team

For questions regarding the status of your shipment please contact Abbott directly at:
Customer Service: ARDxUSGovernmentSupport@abbott.com or 1-877-441-7440