Nebraska HIV CTR  
HIV Self-Testing Protocols and Procedures

Nebraska HIV CTR Testing Sites are eligible for HIV Self-Testing test kits in order to continue HIV testing while clinics and outreach efforts are being hindered due to Coronavirus/COVID-19. If eligible, your organization will be able to reallocate HIV Prevention budget through a Budget Revision in order to pay for shipping costs of Self-Testing HIV test kits, also being referred to as “HIV Testing To Go,” to patients/clients in need of HIV testing. The Self-Testing HIV tests will be provided by NDHHS.

Eligibility Requirements:

In order to participate in the HIV Self-Testing Program your agency and staff must be able to meet all of the expectations of the program as presented in these Protocols and Procedures. NDHHS will work with your agency to assist in finding resources to complete certain requirements.

Your agency will be asked to describe your plan for implementation of:

- Reaching patients/clients interested in HIV Self-Testing.
- Mailing HIV Self-Testing Kits to patients/clients.
- PrEP education and active referrals using the provided PrEP list.
- Risk Reduction Counseling with a focus on inclusive and non stigmatizing language based on HIV CTR Program Training Manual.
- Linkage to HIV Confirmation testing when appropriate.
  - See “Confirmation Testing” on page 4.
- Linkage to HIV Care for newly diagnosed HIV patients/clients.
  - See “HIV Confirmation Test Results” on page 4.
- Educating newly diagnosed patients/clients with a basic HIV 101 and U=U information based on HIV CTR Program Training Manual.
  - U=U and HIV fact sheets will be provided by NDHHS.
- Tracking testing in the Self-Testing log to be provided by NDHHS upon approval for the program.
- Enter testing data in EvaluationWeb.

The HIV Self-Testing Test Kit

http://www.oraquick.com/What-is-OraQuick/OraQuick-In-Home-HIV-Test

http://www.oraquick.com/what-is-oraquick/how-oral-testing-works

http://www.oraquick.com/Taking-the-Test/How-To-Video
Procedure for distributing Self-Testing tests:

The patient/client contacts your agency requesting a HIV test.

- Any advertising about the “Self-Testing test program will need to clearly state that there are qualifications for participating.
- Client/Patient will need to be at least 19 years of age, the legal age to sign a Release of Information (ROI) in the possibility the patient/client tests positive for HIV.
- Staff explains HIV self-testing process and expectations, and asks screening questions to determine if a Self-Testing test is right for this patient/client.
- **Staff will clarify that this is a screening test and not an actual diagnosis.**
- If the patient/client has an HIV Reactive Test result, your agency will help arrange a required HIV Confirmation Test.
- Staff will explain the “window period” for this test, which is about three months. Any HIV exposures in the last three months will not necessarily be detected by this test; however, any HIV transmissions prior to the three month window would be detected.

Screening Questions:

- Are you at least 19 years of age? (Patient will provide Name and Date of Birth.)
- Do you have any concerns about your ability to self-administer the test?
- Do you understand that you will report your test results upon completion and that a member of our staff will call to follow-up if we have not heard from you within a week?
- Tell me what you know about HIV. (Use this time to do a brief HIV 101 to dispel myths based on the HIV CTR Training and Training Manual.)
- If your test were to be reactive for HIV, how do you feel you might react? ***
- Do you understand that HIV tests are completely confidential and that your information is protected and will not be shared with anyone without written permission, except for the Health Department in order to help get you the care that you would need?

***If a patient/client were to say they would harm themselves, more counseling on what it means to be living with HIV is needed. **They are not ready to be doing HIV testing** alone until they understand that living with HIV, with proper care, is very manageable and that a person’s life expectancy is essentially the same as HIV negative peers.

Items you need to add to the Self-Testing Test kit:

- Risk Reduction Literature (including PrEP information)
- Condoms
- Clear instructions on how to use the test
- Release of Information (ROI) for communication between your agency and the Confirmation Test Lab allowing you to help make an appointment and for the lab to confirm with your agency the results.
  - ROI form should be included in case the Self-Testing test is reactive for HIV. It allows for the patient to already have the ROI instead of trying to arrange it after the fact. The patient/client can sign it, fax, scan, or even take a picture with their phone and send via email as long as it is readable. They need to send it as a larger file.
- Release of Information (ROI) for communication between your agency and the Nebraska AIDS Project (NAP) allowing you facilitate Linkage to Services with NAP should the patient/client choose to.
ROI for communication between your agency and HAP should be included in case the Self-Testing test is reactive for HIV. It allows for the patient to already have the ROI instead of trying to arrange it after the fact. The patient/client can sign it and fax, or even take a picture with their phone and send that via email as long as it is readable. They need to send it as a larger file. The patient/client can decline this service or reach out to NAP on their own at another time; however, NAP offers a lot of assistance that most patients/clients find very helpful.

If the patient/client is eligible for Self-Testing:

- Staff asks the patient/client EvalWeb Questions and risk identifying questions before sending the Self-Testing test. Use HIV CTR Program Risk Reduction Interviewing.
- Obtain contact information and mailing address for sending the test.
- Keep a log at your agency in order to track testing, test results, follow-up efforts and Linkage to Care and Services when appropriate.
- Patient calls you once they have completed test. If the patient/client doesn’t call, your staff will do a follow-up call in about a week. Continue follow-up attempts with documentation until patient has completed the test or the patient states they have decided not to use the test.
- At least three follow-up attempts must be made and documented on the Tracking Form.
- Patients/clients can only request a test for themselves; anyone else desiring a test must speak with the tester/counselor individually.

Note: There is no Anonymous Self-Testing at this time. That may change in the future.

Phone Counseling during the Self-Testing test (Recommended but Optional for patient/client)

Since many HIV CTR Testing sites have staff with more down time than normal, staff should offer to be on the phone with the patient/client when they are self-administering the Self-Testing HIV test if the patient is interested in the support. This will allow staff to answer any questions the patient/client might have about the testing process. It also will allow for staff to use the 20 minute wait time for the test to process to do risk reduction counseling. Lastly, it will allow the staff member to be on the phone to help the patient/client interpret the results and offer immediate support should the test be reactive for HIV.

It is up to the patient/client if they want the support and if the agency has capacity.

Agencies need to make sure that patient/client privacy is upheld.

Self-Testing Test Results:

If Self-Testing test is non-reactive

- Staff reminds patient/client of the window period and the possible need to retest in 90 days.
- Staff gives risk Reduction Counseling based on HIV CTR Training and active PrEP referrals.
- Staff records test and information in EvaluationWeb and agency tracking log.
If Self-Testing test is invalid or indeterminate

- If a patient/client reports they cannot interpret the result as either non-reactive or reactive, or the test does not have a visible control line, staff needs to assist the patient/client in scheduling another test as soon as possible
  - Best practice is for the follow-up test to be completed in-person at an appropriate testing site or with trained testing staff; however, if circumstances do not allow for this, and supplies allow, a second HIV Self-Testing test kit may be mailed to the patient/client.
  - The second Self-Testing test, if mailed, should be conducted by trained staff with the patient/client over the phone, FaceTime, Zoom etc. with proper privacy protection.
- Invalid or indeterminate tests must be logged on the Tracking Log as well as in EvaluationWeb.

If Self-Testing test is Reactive

- Remind patient that this is a screening test, not a diagnosis. The Self-Testing test is about 91% accurate when reading as reactive (detecting HIV), and 99.9% accurate when reading non-reactive (not detecting HIV).
- Review HIV 101 based on HIV CTR Training and U=U. Help the patient understand that HIV is very transmissible and that there is financial assistance available too should a Confirmation test come back reactive. Answer any questions they might have.
- Your staff and the patient/client need to arrange a HIV Confirmation Test.
- Link patient to a HIV Confirmation test.
  - If your facility has the ability to do a blood draw, order a HIV AgAb Panel from NPHL. The State has an account with NPHL to pay for these tests as HIV Confirmation tests.
    - Clinics can use their STD account and only need to order the HIVPN test code option. A confirmation for a positive rapid clinic antibody test begins at NPHL with the HIVPN order (HIV 1,2 Antibody and p24 Antigen Screen).
    - When you order confirmation tests, use the patient's name and not a code.
    - For lab questions email: Brian Lenz at blenz@unmc.edu
  - If your site cannot do a blood draw, obtain a signed ROI (Release of Information) from the patient/client, and help them schedule an appointment for a HIV Confirmation test. The ROI allows you to follow-up on the confirmation test results and partner with the agency doing the HIV Confirmation Test. You will need to know these results to get the patient connected to care if HIV is confirmed.
- Recommending that the patient/client abstain from sex until HIV Confirmation Test is completed, or condom use if the patient/client is unable to abstain from sex for any reason.
- Record test and information in EvaluationWeb and agency tracking log.

Confirmation HIV Testing:

Locations where a patient/client can obtain a HIV Confirmation Test by appointment:

In Omaha

- Charles Drew Health Center (Patient/client will need to register as a patient, the HIV Confirmation test will be paid for by the State any other costs should be sliding scale) by appointment 402-451-3553
- North Omaha Area Health – NOAH Clinic (Patient/client will need to register as a patient, the HIV Confirmation test will be paid for by the State) by appointment 402-933-0737
- **UNMC Specialty Care Center** (The HIV Confirmation test will be paid for by the State) by appointment 402-559-2666
- **Their Primary Care Physician** (There will be costs associated with this that the state does not pay, including the test.)
- **Emergency Rooms** (Let the patient know that there will be high costs with this option.)

In Lincoln

- **Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department** (The HIV Confirmation test will be paid for by the State) by appointment 402-441-8065
- **Their Primary Care Physician** (There will be costs associated with this that the state does not pay, including the test.)
- **Emergency Rooms** (Let the patient know that there will be high costs with this option.)

Grand Island

- **Choice Family Health Center** (The HIV Confirmation test will be paid for by the State) by appointment 308-384-7625
- **Their Primary Care Physician** (There will be costs associated with this that the state does not pay, including the test.)
- **Emergency Rooms** (Let the patient know that there will be high costs with this option.)

Kearney

- **Choice Family Health Center** (The HIV Confirmation test will be paid for by the State) by appointment 308-384-7625
- **Their Primary Care Physician** (There will be costs associated with this that the state does not pay, including the test.)
- **Emergency Rooms** (Let the patient know that there will be high costs with this option.)

North Platte

- **People’s family Health Services** (The HIV Confirmation test will be paid for by the State) by appointment 308-534-3077
- **Their Primary Care Physician** (There will be costs associated with this that the state does not pay, including the test.)
- **Emergency Rooms** (Let the patient know that there will be high costs with this option.)

Chadron

- **Western Community Health Resources** (The HIV Confirmation test will be paid for by the State) by appointment 08-432-2747

Prior to starting the HIV Self-Testing program, NDHHS will work with testing sites outside of the Omaha/Lincoln area on a case by case basis to establish a location where a patient/client can obtain a HIV Confirmation test if your site does not already offer them.
HIV Confirmation Test Results:

It is best practice to give HIV Confirmation Test Results, whether positive or negative, to the patient/client in person; however, for the time being all results can be given over the phone to limit exposure to Coronavirus/COVID-19. Patient/Client will need to spell their first and last name and give their date of birth to receive their confirmation test results.

If the HIV Confirmation Test is non-reactive

- Staff will complete Risk Reduction Counseling based on HIV CTR Training Manual and recommend routine testing.
- Staff will offer active referral for PrEP.
- Update EvaluationWeb and your agency’s testing log.

If the HIV Confirmation Test is reactive

- Staff will inform the patient that they will help the patient/client with all of the next steps.
- Staff will educate the patient/client on what it means to live with HIV and U=U based on HIV CTR Training Manual.
- Inform the patient/client that there is financial assistance available to help with medications and medical appointments. Staff will help the patient fill out the Ryan White financial assistance form.
- Staff will remind the patient/client that someone from their Local Health Department will contact them for more assistance.
- In Douglas County Contact the Douglas County Health Department HIV Surveillance Program
  - Office: 402-996-3148
  - Cell: 531-800-4249
- All other Counties contact Marci Athey-Graham, NDHHS HIV Surveillance Program Manager
- Staff should Link the patient/client to Care by helping them schedule their first HIV Care appointment within 30 days of receiving the HIV Confirmation Test results.
  - There are multiple options for HIV Care from which the patient/client can choose. See list below for some options. The list is not exhaustive.
  - Obtain a signed ROI (Release of Information) from the patient/client, and help them schedule an appointment for their first HIV Care visit. The ROI allows you to follow-up on the with the care provider’s office to confirm that the patient attended their first appointment.
  - If the patient does not attend the appointment, your agency should reach out to the patient/client to assist in identifying roadblocks and rescheduling their appointment.
  - Once they have attended their first appointment, update EvaluationWeb with confirmation of the appointment being attended and the date.
- Linkage to Services.
  - Help connect patient to Nebraska AIDS Project. You’ll need a separate ROI signed by the patient/client in order to send their information to NAP. This is optional for the patient/client but highly recommended.
  - See list for Nebraska AIDS Project offices in your area.
HIV Care Providers

This is not a complete list of HIV Care Providers, but includes some options:

Omaha

- University of Nebraska Medical Center Specialty Care Center
  Laura Krajewski, UNMC SCC 402-559-2655
- CHI Health (Immanuel) 402-717-0759
- Infectious Disease 402-354-1530

Lincoln

- CHI Health 402-2198771
- Bluestem Health 402-476-1455
- Health 360 402-476-1455
- Bluestem Health Thompson Clinic 402-476-1455
- Plaza West Psychiatrists 402-474-1511

Grand Island

- Central Nebraska Family Care 308-381-8546

Norfolk

- Midtown Health Center 402-371-8000
- Faith Regional Physician Services 402-844-8196

North Platte

- Great Plains Health 308-568-3500

Nebraska AIDS Project Offices

Omaha/Southwest Iowa

This office serves the counties of: Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington in Nebraska, and Crawford, Carroll, Harrison, Shelby, Audubon, Guthrie, Pottawattamie, Cass, Adair, Madison, Mills, Montgomery, Adams, Union, Clarke, Lucas, Fremont, Page, Taylor, Ringgold, Decatur, and Wayne in Iowa.

250 S 77th St. Suite A
Omaha, NE 68114

Telephone: 402-552-9260
Fax: 402-552-9258

Lincoln

This office serves the counties of: Lancaster, Cass, Polk, Butler, Saunders, York, Seward, Otoe, Fillmore, Saline, Thayer, Jefferson, Gage, Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee, and Richardson counties in Nebraska.

1919 S 40th Street, Suite 320
Lincoln, NE 68508
Kearney/Central Nebraska


Mailing Address:
PO Box 2378
Kearney, NE 68848

Street Address:
2121 B Ave, Suite 2
Kearney, NE 68847

Telephone: 308-338-0527
Fax: 308-338-0601

Norfolk

Mailing Address:
PO Box 423
Norfolk, NE 68702

Street Address:
302 W. Phillip Ave, Ste 200
Norfolk, NE 68701

Telephone: 402-649-3584

Scottsbluff/Panhandle

This office serves the counties of: Scotts Bluff, Sioux, Banner, Kimball, Cheyenne, Morrill, Box Butte, Dawes, Sheridan, Garden, Deuel, Cherry, Grant, Arthur, Perkins, Chase, Dundy, and Keith in Nebraska, and Goshen and Platte counties in Wyoming.

Mailing Address:
PO Box 1626
Scottsbluff, NE 69363

Street Address:
1517 Broadway
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

Telephone: 308-672-0794
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Clinic/Practice</th>
<th>Provider/s</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bellevue</td>
<td>OneWorld Community Health Center</td>
<td>Jane Teeter, PAC</td>
<td>2207 Georgia Ave, Bellevue, NE 68133</td>
<td>402-288-7449</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hastings</td>
<td>Community Health Clinic</td>
<td>Kimberly Dohr, APRN</td>
<td>605 N. Minnesota Ave, Hastings, NE 68901</td>
<td>402-482-5285</td>
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<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>Hart &amp; Arnott Family Health PC</td>
<td>Amy Arnott, APRN</td>
<td>8065 S 3rd Street, Suite 200, Lincoln, NE 68510</td>
<td>402-488-5672</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Planned Parenthood</td>
<td>Kim Castor, APRN</td>
<td>5631 S. 48th Street, Suite 100, Lincoln, NE 68516</td>
<td>402-382-8000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Consultants in Infectious Diseases</td>
<td>Steve Radamacher, MD</td>
<td>1500 S. 48th Street, Suite 506, Lincoln, NE 68516</td>
<td>402-488-1110</td>
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<td>University Health Center UNL</td>
<td>Terry S. Thomas, APRN</td>
<td>550 N. 15th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508</td>
<td>401-772-7477</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Family Physicians Group, PC</td>
<td>Thomas Fischer, MD</td>
<td>770 N. Cotter Blvd, Suite 205, Lincoln, NE 68505</td>
<td>402-487-4861</td>
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<td>Norfolk</td>
<td>Midtown Health Center</td>
<td>Raymond Hailer, MD</td>
<td>302 W. Phillip Ave, Norfolk, NE 68701</td>
<td>402-371-9000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Omaha</td>
<td>Nebraska Medicine Durham Outpatient Clinic</td>
<td>Andrew Vasay, MD, Melanie Manning, MD</td>
<td>4400 Emile St, Omaha, NE 68198</td>
<td>402-559-4015</td>
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<td>Omaha Integrative Care</td>
<td>April Thomas, APRN</td>
<td>2120 N 117th Ave, Omaha, NE 68164</td>
<td>402-334-1517</td>
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<td>OneWorld Community Health Center</td>
<td>Bethany Levy, PAC, Claire Fynbo Eggert, APRN, Melanie Manning, MD</td>
<td>4910 S. 30th Street, Omaha, NE 68107</td>
<td>402-734-4110</td>
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<td>CHI University Campus</td>
<td>Mark D. Goodman, MD</td>
<td>2412 Cumming Street, Omaha, NE 68131</td>
<td>402-712-0380</td>
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<td>VA Medical Center</td>
<td>Marvin J. Bittner, MD</td>
<td>4101 Woolworth Ave, Omaha, NE 68105</td>
<td>402-345-8900</td>
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<td>CVS Minute Clinic</td>
<td>Carmen Corey, FNP</td>
<td>4840 Dodge St, Omaha, NE 68132</td>
<td>402-558-2000</td>
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<td>UNMC Specialty Care Clinic</td>
<td>Sara Barnes, MD, Susan Swindells, MBBS</td>
<td>804 S. 52nd Street, Omaha, NE 68198</td>
<td>402-559-2668</td>
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<td>Olson Center for Women’s Health</td>
<td>Shannon Boerner, MD</td>
<td>4400 Emile St, Level Four, Omaha, NE 68105</td>
<td>402-559-4500</td>
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<td>Nebraska AIDS Project</td>
<td>Jim Macdon, MD</td>
<td>250 S. 77th St, Omaha, NE 68114</td>
<td>402-255-8260</td>
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<td>North Omaha Area Health (NOAH Clinic)</td>
<td>Dr. James Medder MD</td>
<td>5620 Ames Ave #2884, Omaha, NE 68104</td>
<td>402-933-0737</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Charles Drew Health Center</td>
<td>Leslie Karas APRN, WHNP-BC</td>
<td>2915 Grant St, Omaha, NE 68111</td>
<td>402-451-3553</td>
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How Oral Testing Works

Most people assume that blood is involved in HIV testing. But with OraQuick® an oral swab is used for testing and requires no blood. By collecting oral fluid from your gums, you collect fluid similar to that used in blood testing.

So the OraQuick Test detects antibodies for HIV, not the virus itself.

You just gently swipe the test swab along your upper gums once and your lower gums once. Then you insert the swab inside the test tube provided and get your results in just 20 minutes.

1. HIV antibodies from oral fluid are collected through the swab.

2. Once the device is inserted into the test tube, the oral fluid mixes with the liquid and travels up the test stick.

3. If C-Line turns dark it confirms the test is working properly. If no C Line appears, the test is not working.
   If only C-Line appears, the test is negative.

4. HIV antibodies collecting at the T-Line indicate the test is positive.

Safe and approved by the FDA for use by adults (17 years of age or older), OraQuick is the first and only HIV test that delivers your results with all the comforts and privacy of home.