Rapid Antigen Test Date Extensions

The expiration date on your rapid antigen test may no longer be accurate. There are ways to find the revised expiration date of the tests that you received from Department of Health (DOH). The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an amended EUA for several rapid antigen tests to extend the shelf-life. On March 31, 2022, the DOH released an official approval for the use of expired tests.

The FDA maintains a list of authorized over-the-counter tests which has up-to-date details and shelf life of each test.

To make sure the tests that you have are working properly regardless of expiration date, use the built-in quality control (QC) steps of your test kit. If the QC is not intact, or the QC process fails, you should discard the entire box of tests.

Expiration details by test type:

ABBOTT BinaxNOW:
The FDA has approved an amended EUA for Abbott BinaxNOW antigen tests, extending the effective shelf-life. You can look up the revised expiration date by lot number (listed on the box of tests) using the FDA helper sheet for BinaxNOW Ag Card Home Tests and BinaxNOW Ag Self Tests.

iHealth Rapid Antigen Test:
The FDA has approved an amended EUA for iHealth antigen tests, extending the effective shelf life. You can look up new expiration dates by lot number.

CareStart by AccessBio:
The FDA has approved an amended EUA for CareStart antigen tests, extending the effective shelf life. You can look up the revised expiration date by lot number (listed on the box of tests) using the FDA helper sheet for CareStart tests.

Thank you for your partnership and for making good use of tests that are still viable. This authorized extension will help us all effectively use supplies distributed to communities across Washington state. Using supplies that are closest to expiration first can help maintain a reliable inventory, so community members have access to tests when needed most.

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