

# COVID-19 Expired Test Kit Guidance

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## At-Home Over-the-Counter COVID-19 Test Kits

All at-home over-the-counter (OTC) COVID-19 test kits have an expiration date printed outside the box, indicating the last day the test is expected to work effectively. However, the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) allows manufacturers to extend this date if they have data confirming the tests remain accurate beyond the expiration date.

### **What does this mean for you?**

If the expiration date printed on your at-home OTC COVID-19 test kit indicates it's expired, the test may still be viable. Therefore, before discarding an expired test, check the [FDA's website](#) to see if they have extended the expiration date.

**Unless the FDA has extended the shelf life of your COVID-19 tests, the Washington State Department of Health does not recommend using them.** This is because tests may degrade over time, leading to invalid results.

If your at-home COVID-19 tests have expired, you can [order up to eight more for free](#), and the United States Post Office will deliver them to your home.

For the latest information on COVID-19 test kit expiration dates check the [FDA's At-Home OTC COVID-19 Diagnostic Tests webpage](#).

## Point-of-Care COVID-19 Test Kits

Healthcare providers can perform a point-of-care (POC) COVID-19 test outside of a laboratory or medical facility, typically at the location where they are treating or evaluating the patient. It provides rapid results, within minutes, allowing healthcare providers to diagnose COVID-19 infections quickly and make immediate decisions regarding patient care and management. These tests are often used in clinics, doctor's offices, urgent care centers and community testing sites.

**Expired POC COVID-19 tests should not be used beyond the date printed on the box and should be disposed of immediately, according to the manufacturer's instructions.**

For more info on COVID-19 testing in Washington State, visit our [website](#).

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