

With the incidence of Covid-19 cases back on the rise in our county, the CC DOH is still offering the free “at-home” testing kits. The kits can be ordered at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Survey & Scheduler \(cumberlandathometesting.org\)](https://cumberlandathometesting.org).

Here are a few points to consider,

- The kits utilize the Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) methodology to analyze the sample, meaning that it qualifies as a Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT). NAATs are considered to be the gold standard in testing and are often required for traveling.
- In addition, the testing is observed (via zoom) by a trained medical health professional and analyzed in a New Jersey State certified laboratory. These are other requirements often mentioned in formal testing requests.
- Many of the State and federal programs that had offset the cost of Covid testing have ended. This means that there may be an out of pocket charge when getting tested through other entities. This is especially true if you are not symptomatic or have no known contact with a positive person.
- This testing kit does not require you to use a swab. It contains a small test tube that the patient spits into, until a standard amount is collected. This method makes the saliva test ideal for use with children.
- Lastly, because the kit is being shipped to you and then from you to the laboratory, there is more of a delay in getting results than if you went to a urgent care or similar. To lessen the time period, make sure to order your kit as soon as you think you might need it. The kit will arrive in the mail in about 24 hours. Use the kit as soon as you possibly can and return it to the nearest shipping location. This will generally be a UPS drop site. Remember that the UPS drop sites are normally only collected once per day, and possibly less on weekends and holidays. If you need more rapid results, it will help to drop the package off at a manned UPS drop site such as the UPS stores in Vineland or the Staples store in Millville. When the specimen reaches the laboratory, the laboratory will send you a conformation email saying that it was received. Generally speaking, the results will get posted 16-18 hours after the kits has been received by the laboratory. This time will vary, depending on how many specimens the laboratory is processing.