



CITY of NORTHAMPTON
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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Northampton Health Department is Accepting At-Home COVID Test Reports to Improve COVID-19 Surveillance

NORTHAMPTON - The Northampton Health Department is encouraging residents of Hampshire County to report positive at-home COVID tests to its department. The Northampton Health Department provides public health nursing services, including infectious disease management and surveillance, to many of the Hampshire County communities. The department hopes that by receiving at-home test reports it can reduce data gaps created by the lack of a standardized statewide reporting system for at-home COVID-19 tests.

Public Health Nurse Vivian Franklin said, "At-home tests are incredibly beneficial in their ease of use, rapid results, accessibility, and affordability. They greatly improve your ability to monitor your own health, and protect yourself and those around you. However, individuals who test only at home are not included in COVID-19 surveillance and we know that this is contributing to a potentially steep undercount of COVID-19 activity in our communities."

Test reports may be submitted online or by calling public health nursing directly. The new reporting function is primarily intended for data collection and disease surveillance purposes, and therefore reports may be completed anonymously if individuals do not want to be identified or contacted by the Health Department. Individuals who are seeking guidance or assistance with isolation and quarantine may contact public health nursing at (413)587-4919. Private health information is handled securely and confidentially, and any public-facing reports will not contain any identifying information.

In addition to reporting current at-home tests, individuals may retroactively report tests that were taken in previous months. At-home testing reports will supplement data provided by tests reported through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Tests performed by providers, pharmacies, higher education testing sites, other laboratory testing sites (eg. drive-thru and walk-up sites, testing clinics), and school pooled testing programs are all reported to the Massachusetts DPH as required by law. Individuals should not report an at-home test if they have already been tested through such a site.

For more information, visit <https://northamptonma.gov/2104/Covid-19-Information>. Questions may be directed to Public Health Nurse Vivian Franklin at vfranklin@northamptonma.gov or (413)587-4919.