



LeadingAge COVID-19 Testing Survey (11/9/20)

LeadingAge surveyed our nonprofit provider members during the first week of November to gauge their experiences with various government-supplied point of care tests. Of the 547 respondents, nursing home members dominated (85% or 446), followed by assisted living (56% or 305), home health care (10.4% or 57) and hospice (9.7% or 40).

Key Findings

Providers report **using a mix of testing types**, including PCR tests with collections taken onsite and sent to an outside lab, and point-of-care antigen tests.

Many (66%) LeadingAge provider **members have received Abbott BinaxNOW tests** from the government.

While **most (63%) providers who have Abbott BinaxNOW tests are using them**, over a third of providers who have the tests are not currently using them. Reasons why they are not using the tests include:

- PCR tests are perceived to be more reliable.
- Providers already have PCR testing protocols in place.
- Reporting requirements are too cumbersome.
- Providers have only recently received Abbott tests.
- Other point-of-care testing supplies are being used first.

Most (89%) LeadingAge provider **members have accessed training** on using tests, including training sessions, online videos and webinars, and written manufacturer instructions.

Survey Data and Verbatims

- Two thirds of respondents have received Abbott BinaxNOW tests from the government; 46% have received multiple deliveries, while 19.78% have received one delivery.
- 63% of respondents who have received the Abbott BinaxNOW tests are currently using them.
- 37% of respondents who have received the Abbott BinaxNOW tests are *not* currently using them.
- Respondents are using a mix of testing types:
 - 62% use PCR tests
 - 54% use BD Veritor point-of-care tests
 - 46% use Abbott BinaxNOW cards
- 89% have accessed some type of training on using tests:
 - 47% have joined training sessions hosted by manufacturers
 - 22% have joined training sessions hosted by LeadingAge
 - 67% have watched online videos and webinars

- 55% have read manufacturer instructions

Comments from providers who received Abbott BinaxNOW tests but are not using them.

- “We use [Abbott BinaxNOW] for immediate testing, not for surveillance as that is not the appropriate use.”
- “We really like the Abbott tests and I have tried to request more and have been told over and over again that we can’t. They are just on allotment.”
- “Currently using BD Veritor POC testing as these supplies were received first and facility staff comfortable with its testing process. We plan to train on and use Abbott POC tests soon.”
- “These [Abbott BinaxNOW] tests take too much staff time. We don’t have that time required for using in-house testing methods unless we hire 2-3 dedicated staff for testing purposes.”
- “We use PCR tests with a lab because they are more accurate.”
- “The county [PCR test] is more accurate and we can get results within one day. Plus we do not have the burden to report results for our large building.”
- “The reporting is very cumbersome if used and then it is still recommended to have PCR completed no matter the results.”

Comments on providers’ overall experience with Abbott BinaxNOW tests.

- “The tests have been helpful in different situations for both staff and residents but they are not preference for testing 276 staff members at one time on a weekly basis. They are a good supplement to what we are doing with tests using a contractor.”
- “We have found them very good at surveillance testing of residents since our lab was taking up to 5 days. Did find one asymptomatic resident as positive. Very helpful.”
- “So much appreciate the testing supplies. Gives us quick access to results and can quickly test ... we are in a rural setting and in a town with no access to a medical lab without travelling ... having the test equipment ... allows us to be more proactive ...”
- “The testing process is quite easy, but the reporting is not.”
- “I think it is just a matter of getting used to it. The staff are much more used to the BD Veritor.”
- “It is taking up a lot of staff time. We are testing weekly and that is all we have time for. Prepping, testing and dealing with post test results. Too much!!!!”
- “It is very expensive to purchase all of the tests that we have to give our employees and residents.”
- “The access to tests in the future is extremely important to defer the cost. The staff cost to implement, especially in twice a week episodes is an extreme hardship.”

About LeadingAge: We represent more than 5,000 aging-focused organizations that touch millions of lives every day. Alongside our members and 38 state partners, we address critical issues by blending applied research, advocacy, education, and community-building. We bring together the most inventive minds in our field to support older adults as they age wherever they call home. We make America a better place to grow old. For more information: [leadingage.org](https://www.leadingage.org).