

Press Release



Walla Walla County
Department of
Community Health

SAY COVID TEST
YES! KEEP OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

November 29, 2021

Say Yes! COVID Test Program Offers Free, Rapid, Self-Administered Tests to Walla Walla County Residents to Reduce COVID-19 Spread

Residents can order their free COVID-19 test kits while supplies last at [SayYesCovidHomeTest.org](https://www.sayyescovidhometest.org)

WALLA WALLA, WA – The *Say Yes! COVID Test At-Home Testing Challenge* provides households with access to free, rapid COVID-19 test kits that they can self-administer and is now available in Walla Walla County. *Say Yes! COVID Test* encourages residents to use the tests to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and keep the community healthy. Walla Walla County residents can now [order testing kits online](#) for free home delivery.

“Children, adolescents, and adults who are not yet fully vaccinated or at high risk, need more accessible tools to inform their choices. Free, rapid, self-administered testing will give community members one more way to help reduce the spread of COVID-19,” said Walla Walla County Public Health Officer Daniel Kaminsky, MD. “Anyone can just swab the front of their nose and perform this test in the privacy of their home and have results within 10 minutes.”

The *Say Yes! COVID Test* initiative is a [cooperative effort](#) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), community partners, test manufacturer Quidel, and healthcare technology company CareEvolution. State and local health departments help connect the initiative to local community members. Researchers at NIH-supported academic health centers will work with CDC and NIH to use publicly available data to determine if the local testing efforts slowed the spread of COVID-19.

Rapid, self-administered testing has potential to disrupt the spread of COVID-19 that occurs when people are infected, but don't yet have symptoms. Testing on a routine basis offers the best chance of identifying COVID-19 infection and isolating early. The COVID-19 tests are authorized for use by the FDA, provided [free of charge](#), and the entire testing process can be managed privately at home. Tests require a quick swab inside each nostril, and results can be read in just 10 minutes. A free, private, and easy-to-use mobile application is available to help individuals in every step of test taking. The

maker of the tests, Quidel, is the same company that made the first rapid flu tests used by doctors' offices in the United States.

Individuals who have not yet received the COVID-19 vaccine or who have the highest risk of exposure to COVID-19, such as people working or going to school outside the home, are ideal candidates for participation, but anyone over the age of 2 is welcome to participate. The testing challenge lasts for at least a month, or until all tests are used.

Walla Walla County residents can visit the website [SayYesCovidHomeTest.org](https://www.sayyescovidhometest.org) to order test kits for doorstep delivery.

If you have questions about the *Say Yes! COVID Test* project, or want to find a pick-up location near you, use the links above (or call the DCH at 509-524-2650).

Media Contacts

CareEvolution: Vik Kheterpal, MD, vik.kheterpal@careevolution.com

National Institutes of Health (NIH): Raymond MacDougall, raymond.macdougall@nih.gov

Walla Walla County Department of Community Health: Walla Walla County PIO, EOCPIO@co.walla-walla.wa.us