

NBSIA Member Services Safety Bulletin

October 2023

COVID-19 UPDATES

With COVID-19 cases on the rise again in the U.S., Americans are reviving a familiar precautionary measure: Screening for the virus using rapid at-home tests.

Many people still have at-home COVID-19 tests and hand sanitizers. Different COVID-19 tests and hand sanitizer bear expiration dates on their packaging that have long since passed, raising questions about whether they're still effective.

Expired FDA-authorized at-home COVID Test

The expiration date for an at-home COVID-19 diagnostic test may be extended beyond the date printed on the outer box or package as additional stability data is collected.

You can check the Expiration Date column of the List of Authorized At-Home OTC COVID-19 Diagnostic Tests to see if the expiration date for your at-home OTC COVID-19 test has been extended and how to find any new expiration date.



Expired Hand Sanitizer

It's OK to keep using expired hand sanitizer, as long as it still evaporates quickly and smells strongly of alcohol. It is still effective. If hand sanitizer is NOT effective anymore, contact your Risk Manager or District Safety Coordinator.

Keep hand sanitizer out of the trash and do not pour it down the drain.

Remember that washing hands with soap and water – and using hand sanitizer only when handwashing facilities are not available – continues to be an important public health measure for staying healthy and preventing the spread of infections all the time, not just during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Training Available on VectorSolutions

Coronavirus 101: What You Need to Know

Coronavirus 102: Preparing Your Household

Coronavirus 103: Managing Stress and Anxiety

Coronavirus 104: Remote Workforce

Coronavirus 105: Cleaning and Disinfecting your Workplace

Coronavirus 106: Face Coverings

Coronavirus 107: Reopening your Organization

Coronavirus 108: The Basics of Vaccines

Coronavirus 109: What you Should Know about Variants

Go to VectorSolutions.com to access your personal training portal or contact your HR department.

Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention

Staying Home When Sick: People who have symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea, should stay home

Ventilation: Schools and ECE programs can optimize ventilation and maintain improvements to indoor air quality to reduce the risk of germs and contaminants spreading through the air.

Eat Outdoors: Many schools offer breakfast as students' days begin, lunch at mid-day, an afternoon snack, and even an evening meal in places with after school or extended day programs. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention encourage schools and districts to have children eat meals outdoors, if it is feasible.

Take Me Outside Day: Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Help raise awareness about outdoor learning by encouraging educators to take their learners outside.

<https://takemeoutside.ca/tmoday/>

Sources:

<https://ehs.lbl.gov/2023/05/17/expired-hand-sanitizer-is-ok-to-use/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>



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