

Behavioral Health Services (BHS) – Contractor Information Notice

To:	BHS Contracted Service Providers
From:	Behavioral Health Services
Date:	October 5, 2021
Title	COVID-19 Testing for Contracted Providers

Below is a list of questions (Q) and answers (A) regarding COVID-19 testing for contracted providers. If you have other questions not answered below, please reach out to your COR.

Q1: Can programs bill the County of San Diego (County) for the time required for someone to get COVID tested (e.g., traveling offsite, waiting in line to be tested, etc.)?

A: Under a cost reimbursement contract, County Behavioral Health Services (BHS) will cover reasonable time required for a contract provider’s employee to get tested for COVID (e.g., traveling offsite, waiting in line to be tested, etc.). Contractor would need to track these costs separately so BHS can claim these to appropriate funding sources. In addition, for employees who work for more than one program/contract, costs should be allocated to each program/contract.

Q2: Can mileage be reimbursed for travel to get testing (e.g., if the only available testing location is far away)?

A: Under a cost reimbursement contract, County BHS will reimburse reasonable travel mileage to get tested for COVID. Contract provider would need to track these costs separately so BHS can claim these costs to appropriate funding sources. In addition, for employees who work for more than one program/contract, costs should be allocated to each program/contract.

Q3: As costs of testing supplies and masks increase due to demand, will these costs be covered by the County?

A: Under a cost reimbursement contract, County BHS will cover reasonable costs of testing supplies that have received FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), gowns, gloves, eye protection, and masks incurred by the contract provider. Providers are expected to be mindful of price gouging; costs invoiced to County BHS, while potentially increasing, are expected to be fair and reasonable. Contract provider would need to track these costs separately so BHS can claim these costs to appropriate funding sources.

Q4: Will priority be given by the County on making testing available to congregate behavioral health sites?

A: Testing locations are open to all individuals that need testing. In addition to testing via the healthcare system and/or some occupational health organizations, the County also continues to offer testing. The County has recently expanded and/or re-opened testing sites to keep up with increased demand for testing. For COVID-19 testing information and sites, please visit: https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/testing.html.

Alternatively, organizations can also work with the state testing task force to test using antigen test kits and confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests as needed: [Start a testing site in your community | California Coronavirus Testing Task Force](#).

For More Information:

- Contact your Contracting Officer’s Representative (COR)