

At-Home Testing Panel: Q&A

- 1) **Does anyone know if there are any organizations out there that are delivering test kits to youth (ages 12-18)?**

San Ysidro Health: Under state law, we can administer HIV tests to anyone over 12 years of age without parent consent, therefore our program can deliver to minors, however we rarely receive request from that age group. Our CDC funded HIV testing program focuses on youth, however most of their participants are 17 and older.

BHOC/TakeMeHome: TakeMeHome is expanding eligibility per state law. For CA, individuals over age 12 can order a test. We'll be allowing people 12 and over to order a lab-based kit in San Francisco, per their request. OraQuick tests are FDA approved for age 17 and older.

- 2) **Can you link the never tested or not for many years with the outcome of the tests? E.g. can you calculate the number of preliminary positives among never tested? Do you have an age distribution of the never tested?**

BHOC/TakeMeHome: Current participants are eligible if they hadn't tested in at least a year. Amongst those who reported not testing in the past year, average age was 31. Amongst those who reported never testing, the average age was 27. I will have to follow up to get additional information about preliminary positives among never tested. This will be easier when I have more complete reporting from our partners on positive cases.

- 3) **Jen from BHOC – you mentioned expanding eligibility soon. Since a current marker of eligibility is not having an HIV test in the last year, are there any plans to increase testing for clients who prefer testing for HIV more frequently?**

BHOC/TakeMeHome: Yes, we will be opening eligibility per jurisdiction request. We already have a couple of jurisdictions that will be moving to allowing individuals to test with 3 months since last test.

- 4) **Have you encountered any client trust issues re: confidentiality, sharing personal info through an app, reliability, etc.?**

San Ysidro Health: The only issue we encountered was with a client that was facing Mental Health issues. He wanted to make sure that we were talking to the correct person, because he shares the phone with his partner. We agreed on a code word, which was used for all follow-ups and linkage to care.

BHOC/TakeMeHome: We have only had a couple of individuals write in about these concerns. Most seem very comfortable with how it's set up. We include information about what to expect in regards to data privacy on the website.

- 5) **Do you budget and purchase the at-home test kits or are they provided through the manufacturer or other entity?**

San Ysidro Health: For programs funded by CDPH's 18-1802 program, we must receive approval

before we purchase any HIV home test kits with grant funds. For other HIV testing programs, we purchase directly from the manufacturer and budget appropriately. Since we've had some savings due to COVID restrictions, we moved those savings to purchase HIV home tests.

BHOC/TakeMeHome: We work in partnership with NASTAD who purchases the kits in bulk for each jurisdiction and then the kits are shipped to our fulfillment partner.

6) How does reporting work for the At-Home Testing programs if you can't obtain their results?

San Ysidro Health: As mentioned during the webinar, we make sure to establish rapport with each client so that they feel comfortable in sharing results, we also provide information on services we offer in case their results are positive. In addition, we share PrEP information (if they don't already know) in case their results are negative and want to stay negative. We have received a result (by picture text or phone call) from each client we have tested so far. If we don't receive a result back, we would add a special note stating that a test was delivered, but that we don't have confirmation of the client taking the test, as well as adding to the note how many communication attempts were done.

BHOC/TakeMeHome: For the oral testing, we ask participants to complete a follow-up survey, but only some participants complete it. We ask each participating jurisdiction to match the list of kits mailed with their surveillance data (as is done by programs in Arizona and Virginia).