



## COVID-19 Testing — Billing Guidance

Healthfirst will cover medically appropriate COVID-19 testing at no cost-share and without the imposition of prior authorization or other clinical requirements during the public health emergency when such testing is ordered by a physician or licensed healthcare professional for the purpose of diagnosis or treatment of COVID-19. Healthfirst does not cover COVID-19 surveillance testing, otherwise known as testing for employment, education, travel, or entertainment (e.g., public health or social purposes).

For information on how to get reimbursed for COVID-19 testing or for administering the COVID-19 vaccine to those who are uninsured, [click here](#).

### At-home Testing

At-home testing for COVID-19 is available to all immunocompromised New Yorkers and those age 65 and older. At-home appointments, which have been available for close contacts getting tested for COVID since March 2021, offer no-cost testing to New Yorkers in the convenience and comfort of their homes. Appointments for at-home testing are available seven days a week, 9am–7pm.

New Yorkers may call **1-929-298-9400** to schedule an appointment.

### Providers with CLIA Certification

If you are a laboratory with Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certification that has received a physician order and patient specimen for testing or you are performing the test and providing test results, the following billing codes are applicable<sup>1</sup>:

- CPT Code 86328: Immunoassay for infectious agent antibody(ies), qualitative or semiquantitative, single-step method (e.g., reagent strip); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])

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- CPT Code 86769: Antibody; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])
- CPT Code 87426: Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique (e.g., enzyme immunoassay [EIA], enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA], fluorescence immunoassay [FIA], immunochemiluminometric assay [IMCA]) qualitative or semiquantitative; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (e.g., SARS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2 [COVID-19])
- CPT Code 87428: Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique (e.g., enzyme immunoassay [EIA], enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA], fluorescence immunoassay [FIA], immunochemiluminometric assay [IMCA]) qualitative or semiquantitative; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (e.g., SARS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2 [COVID-19]) and influenza virus types A and B
- CPT Code 87635: Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), amplified probe technique
- CPT Code 87811: Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay with direct optical (i.e., visual) observation; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])
- HCPCS U0001: CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel
- HCPCS U0002: 2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-CDC
- HCPCS U0003: Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), amplified probe technique, making use of high throughput technologies as described by CMS-2020-01-R
- HCPCS U0004: 2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-CDC, making use of high throughput technologies as described by CMS-2020-01-R

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Office-based providers who are CLIA certified and looking to render the above services must be first contracted and credentialed for laboratory services to qualify for reimbursement. If you are an office-based provider who holds a CLIA certificate, please reach out to your Network Account Manager.

## Providers with CLIA Waiver

If you are an office-based provider or laboratory conducting the following COVID-19 tests and hold a CLIA certificate of waiver, the following billing codes are applicable. Please note that providers must bill QW modifier in order to be reimbursed for the test codes below.

Payment for these codes is dependent on the terms of your agreement. Please reach out to your Network Account Manager to confirm that the following test codes are included in your contract:

- CPT Code 87635: Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), amplified probe technique
- CPT Code 87426: Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique, (e.g., enzyme immunoassay [EIA], enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA], fluorescence immunoassay [FIA], immunochemiluminometric assay [IMCA]) qualitative or semiquantitative; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (e.g., SARS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2 [COVID-19])
- CPT Code 87428: Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique, (e.g., enzyme immunoassay [EIA], enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA], fluorescence immunoassay [FIA], immunochemiluminometric assay [IMCA]) qualitative or semiquantitative; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (e.g., SARS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2 [COVID-19]) and influenza virus types A and B
- HCPCS U0002: 2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-CDC

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- CPT Code 87811: Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay with direct optical (i.e., visual) observation; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])

<sup>1</sup>Please note: the codes listed above represent a list of common COVID lab test codes. This list is not meant to be all-encompassing. For the full list, visit Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) COVID-19 Test Pricing.

Healthcare providers should continue to visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and the [New York State Department of Health](#) (NYSDOH) websites regularly for the latest updates.

If you have any questions, please call Provider Services at **1-888-801-1660**, Monday to Friday, 8:30am–5:30pm.

*Updated as of 09/2021*