Free On-Site COVID-19 Testing

MTS is pleased to announce that free on-site diagnostic COVID-19 testing will be available beginning Tuesday, January 19th through a partnership with the State of California.

Employees will self-administer the test by taking a swab from their nose. Diagnostic testing determines if the test subject has an active COVID-19 infection. Results of the test will be confidential. MTS will not have access to your results or any health information employees provide in the State's testing application. All actively working employees and Transit System Security contractors are encouraged to be tested weekly.

This is preemptive testing for employees who have no symptoms and are actively working. If testing before their shift or on a rest day, employees must go to a temperature checking station prior to taking the COVID-19 test.

DO NOT COME TO ANY MTS FACILITY IF YOU ARE SICK OR EXPERIENCING COVID-19 SYMPTOMS! EMPLOYEES WHO ARE SICK SHOULD SEEK TESTING THROUGH SAN DIEGO COUNTY OR THEIR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER AND MUST STAY AWAY FROM WORK UNTIL THEY ARE CLEARED BY A LICENSED HEALTHCARE PROVIDER TO RETURN TO WORK.

Testing Steps:

1. **Select a testing location from the attached Testing Sites and Hours list.**
2. **Scan the QR code for the testing location that you selected using the camera on your smart phone or tablet. The QR code will take you to a location-specific webpage within the State's testing application which is called "Color". You may also click the appropriate website link or enter the URL in a browser window to access the State's testing administration application.**
3. **Enter your name, contact information and complete the questionnaire in the application. All non-essential demographic questions for the State's research purposes are optional.**
4. **Go to the location you chose during its hours of operation (no appointment necessary) and provide a sample (nose swab). Results will arrive via text message and email in two to three days.**

Please read the attached frequently asked questions (FAQ) list for further information.

Attachments:
1. **COVID-19 Testing Sites and Hours**
2. **COVID-19 Testing FAQ**

COVID-19 Testing Sites and Hours

Employees must sign up at the specific location where they would like to be tested. Once you have signed up at a particular location, you can retest at that location in the future without signing up again.

Location	Days / Hours	Site QR Code	Site Color Link
Imperial Avenue Division **(follow signage to maintenance bay on the first floor of the main building)** **100 16th Street, San Diego, CA 92101** (enter from Imperial Avenue)	**Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday** **8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**		https://home.color.com/covid/sign-up/start?partner=cdph208
Rail Building A **Located behind the James R. Mills Building** **1255 Imperial Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101**	**Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday** **8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**		https://home.color.com/covid/sign-up/start?partner=cdph288
Kearny Mesa Division **Follow signage to dispatch operations building** **4630 Ruffner St., San Diego, CA 92111**	**Thursday and Friday** **7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**		https://home.color.com/covid/sign-up/start?partner=cdph209

COVID-19 Testing FAQ

This list of frequently asked questions is divided into three sections:

1. **General Questions**
2. **Application Questions**
3. **Test Site Questions**

General Questions

Q: Who is eligible for testing?

    A: All actively working MTS employees and Transit System Security contractors.

Q: I work at a different location than the location where I would like to be tested; can I go to another MTS facility for testing?

    A: Yes. Any MTS, MTS Bus or MTS Rail employee can be tested at any testing location. As always, prominently display your employee ID while on Agency property.

Q: How frequently can I be tested?

    A: Employees are encouraged to be tested weekly.

Q: Am I required to get tested?

A: No. MTS is providing this free service to increase safety in the workplace and ensure employees have easy access to testing.

Q: I have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19 but I do not have any symptoms and I am not subject to quarantine; can I be tested at MTS?

    A: Yes, employees who are NOT subject to quarantine but have been exposed are eligible for testing at MTS. Employees who are exhibiting symptoms should seek testing through the County of San Diego or their healthcare provider.

Q: Can I be tested during my usual shift?

    A: Employees can choose to be tested on their meal breaks, on their rest days, or before or after their shifts. Some departments may be able to arrange for testing during shifts with the test site administrator. Please consult your supervisor with questions about testing during your shift.

Q: I do not have a smartphone to sign up using the Color QR codes; can I be tested?

    A: Yes, you can provide the same information you would provide in the application at a testing site; but the testing process will take longer. You must have a cell phone capable of receiving text messages or an active email address to receive the results.

Q: Do I have to sign up for the specific location where I want to be tested or will signing up at any location work?

    A: You must sign up at the specific location where you want to be tested or the collection staff will not have your name or be able to process your test. You only need to sign up once per location. For subsequent tests you can simply show up at the location again to be re-tested.

Q: What do I do if I test positive?

    A: Employees who test positive should quarantine immediately, inform their supervisor, and contact the Human Resources department for guidance regarding a leave of absence (joshua.samramos@sdmts.com or 619-557-4598).

Application Questions

Q: Do I have to answer all of the State's questions on the testing application in order to be tested?

    A: No. All nonessential questions in the testing application (e.g., test reason, history of medical conditions) are optional. You can select "I prefer not to say" from the bottom of the list of options. Information entered in the Color application (other than name and date of birth) will not be shared with MTS.

Q: Why does the Color application ask if I have health insurance?

    A: If you have insurance, the State will bill your insurance for the test. You will not be billed or have any copay or coinsurance. Most MTS employees have insurance so they would select "Commercial/Other" from the list and then select either Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Sothern California or Blue Shield of California.

Q: Can I be tested if I do not have health insurance?

    A: Yes. If you do not have health insurance, select "No. I do not have any health insurance." and you can skip the insurance section. You will still receive a test free of charge.

Test Site Questions

Q: What do I need to bring with me?

    A: Your employee ID and, of course, wear a mask or facial covering. It is also beneficial, but not required, for you to bring your smartphone.

Q: How long does the process take?

    A: The test collection process takes about five minutes but total time will vary based on demand. Total time will usually be between 10 and 45 minutes. If you arrive with insufficient time before the start of your shift, you may need to come back during a rest period or after your shift.

Q: What are the safety protocols at the test site?

    A: Site personnel will wear additional PPE (e.g., face shield) and protocols are in place to maintain social distancing between testing site staff and other employees. Everyone is required to wear a facial covering.

Q: What is the sample collection procedure?

    A: Employees will check in, electronically sign the State's release / testing authorization form, and wait for the next available tester. When it is their turn, the collector will instruct/supervise the employee as they swab their nose and seal their sample in a test vial.

Q: How long will it take me to receive my results?

    A: Usually two or three days.

Q: How will my results arrive?

    A: Color will send you a text message. You will also receive an email if you provide an email address.