

The BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card

This new antigen test, authorized for emergency use by the FDA, works by looking for small molecules on the surface of the virus that causes COVID-19. Compared to other COVID-19 antigen tests, it is different in three ways:

1. **Faster** – results in 15 minutes
2. **Cheaper** – approx. \$5/test
3. **Does not require specialized equipment** – results are read like a pregnancy test (two lines = positive, one line = negative)

How does BinaxNOW work?

BinaxNOW is about the size of a credit card that opens like a greeting card. It is designed for samples to be run within 1 hour of collection. The card is first opened, and a few drops of the extraction reagent added to it. A nasal swab, ideally taken within the first 7 days of symptom onset, is inserted, and the card is closed for 15 minutes. During this time, the extraction reagent helps the sample ‘react’ with the antibodies on the test card. Antibodies are proteins that bind to the small molecules (the antigens) on the virus surface. If the antibodies find the antigen, **two purple lines** are produced, indicating a **positive result**. **One purple line** indicates a negative result. For a demo video, scroll the bottom of: <https://www.globalpointofcare.abbott/en/product-details/navica-binaxnow-covid-19-us.html>



Is there any other special functionality?

BinaxNOW also comes with a free optional app for iPhones and Androids, called NAVICA. The app allows people with a negative result to get a temporary encrypted digital health pass via a QR code (see image). The code is renewed each time the person tests negative and includes the date of the last test result. A positive test will trigger a notification to quarantine and speak with a doctor.

Can I trust the results?

According to the manufacturer, the test has a sensitivity of 97.1% (meaning 97.1% of positive cases are correctly identified as positive), and a specificity of 98.5% (meaning 98.5% of negative cases are correctly identified as negative). Like all antigen tests, positive tests are reliably positive but negative tests are “presumptive negative.”

Can I use it at a Point of Care (POC)?

Yes. The test is authorized for use at any patient care setting operating under a CLIA Certificate of Waiver, Certification of Compliance or Certificate of Accreditation.

Can I use it to screen asymptomatic individuals?

According to the CDC, “off-label” use on asymptomatic individuals may be advisable, especially in congregate settings like nursing homes, if frequent PCR tests are not feasible, or if they have high turnaround times.

For more information, visit: <https://www.abbott.com/BinaxNOW-Test-NAVICA-App.html>