

COVID tests

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facturers employ hundreds of workers in seven states, officials said.

“The Biden-Harris Administration, in partnership with domestic manufacturers, has made great strides in addressing vulnerabilities in the U.S. supply chain by reducing our reliance on overseas manufacturing,” said HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra. “These critical investments will strengthen our nation’s production levels of domestic at-home COVID-19 rapid tests and help mitigate the spread of the virus.”

HHS officials said the tests will detect the COVID-19 variants now circulating and can be used through the end of 2023.

Consumers who order a new test will get a warning that the free tests might show expired dates on the box. The Food and Drug Administration extended expiration dates for home coronavirus tests.

The Biden administration launched CovidTests in early 2022 as long lines and home test shortages made it difficult for Americans to get checked for the contagious omicron variant, then the dominant strain. The federal government initially purchased 500 million home tests to be mailed to households so people could test themselves at home without a lab.

COVID-19 infections have been rising since early July, data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows. Hospitalizations are up 7.7% as of Sept. 9 and deaths 12.5% as of Sept. 16, but totals remain far below previous peaks.

The share of positive coronavirus tests climbed from about 4% in early June to 12.5% as of Sept. 16. The CDC testing data typically doesn’t include home coronavirus tests unless someone visits a doctor who orders a test through a lab.