

Americans eligible for free COVID tests again

Households can sign up online to receive four at-home kits

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USA TODAY

U.S. consumers can once again get four free coronavirus home tests per household through the government-run website CovidTests.gov.

The Biden administration reopened the free test program beginning Monday, as the Department of Health and Human Services announced it will award \$600 million to a dozen domestic coronavirus test manufacturers to shore up the government's supply of home tests.

The investment will deliver about 200 million new over-the-counter coronavirus tests, officials said.

During four previous rounds, HHS secured and the U.S. Postal Service delivered more than 755 million tests free to households. The program ended at the conclusion of the COVID-19 public health emergency earlier this year. The federal government has continued to ship tests to nursing homes, low-income senior housing, the uninsured and underserved communities, officials said.

HHS' Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response announced the contracts will range from \$167 million to iHealth in California to \$4.5 million to Advin in California. The a dozen test manu-

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Americans can once again get four free coronavirus home tests per household through the government-run website CovidTests.gov. Health and Human Services officials said the new tests will detect the COVID-19 variants now circulating in the U.S. and can be used through the end of 2023.

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