



City of Fall River Massachusetts

PAUL E. COOGAN
Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Fall River Distributing COVID-19 Test Kits

(FALL RIVER, MA- December 21, 2021)- The City of Fall River continues to distribute the 38,790 at-home COVID-19 rapid antigen test kits allocated to the City from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The tests were delivered to the Fall River Department of Health and Human Services on Friday, December 17th.

As of Tuesday, December 21st, 23,670 tests have been distributed through various community based organizations. Tests have been delivered to the Fall River Public Schools, Fall River Housing Authority, the Fall River Council on Aging, food pantries, faith-based organizations and a number of other agencies including SER-Jobs for Progress, SSTAR, Citizens for Citizens, People Incorporated, WIC, and HealthFirst Inc. These organizations will be distributing their test kits to clients and those they serve.

In addition, a public distribution of 15,120 remaining test kits is planned for Wednesday, December 22nd from 4pm-7pm at three of the Fall River Fire Department stations. These are free tests for Fall River residents and those picking up tests must show proof of residency. There will be a limit of 2 test kits (4 tests) per household. The locations for Wednesday's distribution are:

659 Globe Street Fire Station

400 Eastern Ave Fire Station

229 Stanley Street Fire Station

“We are grateful to the Baker-Polito administration for rolling out this at-home testing program,” said Mayor Paul Coogan. “By working with community partners and planning a distribution on Wednesday, our goal is to get these kits in the hands of our residents right in time for the holidays. These kits are a simple, fast and convenient way to make sure you and your loved ones can spend the holidays together safely.”

All tests come in packs of two and contain instructions on how to use them. The tests can be completed in 15 minutes without the need to send a sample to a laboratory. Individuals 2 years of age and up can use the tests regardless of vaccination status or whether or not they have symptoms. Individuals who test positive must isolate for 10 days.

Fall River was one of 102 cities and towns chosen to receive test kits due to the high proportion of families at or below the poverty level. Information regarding test kit instructions can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/covid-19-self-test-at-home-instructions-graphic>.