

# FLINT PLUMBING AND PIPEFITTING FRINGE BENEFIT FUNDS

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Flint Plumbing & Pipefitting Industry Health Care Fund  
Flint Plumbing & Pipefitting Industry Pension Fund  
Flint Plumbing & Pipefitting Industry Defined Contribution Plan  
Scholarship Fund of Flint Plumbing & Pipefitting Industry  
Supplemental Unemployment & Disability Plan of Local Union 370

Managed for the Trustees by:  
TIC INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

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March 2022

## **Over-the-Counter COVID-19 Testing**

### **At-Home Testing Options**

The federal government is offering four free COVID-19 at-home tests to all households, regardless of insurance coverage. You can order tests at [covidtests.gov](https://covidtests.gov).

Blue Cross Blue Shield has launched a preferred pharmacy network for over-the-counter, at-home COVID-19 tests, effective Feb. 1, 2022. The network enables commercial members with Blue Cross or BCN pharmacy coverage to obtain a number of free COVID-19 tests when purchased in person at a preferred pharmacy. The preferred COVID-19 test network includes Rite Aid, Sam's Club, and Walmart pharmacies. Members must get the tests through the pharmacy counter by presenting their Blue Cross Blue Shield ID card. Members also have access to get their OTC tests through the BCBSM.com website under the Optum/BCBSM Pharmacy home page.

For reimbursement of purchases at nonpreferred pharmacies, a new form will be available at [bcbsm.com](https://bcbsm.com) on Feb. 1, 2022, that uses OptumRx to process these claims. You will need to provide a receipt indicating the amount you paid and documentation from a qualified health care provider that ordered the testing. Tests purchased outside of the preferred network pharmacies will be reimbursed for up to \$12 per test.

### **Additional Information**

- Tests must be authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
- Tests must be purchased on or after Feb. 1, 2022, to qualify for the preferred network.
- Up to eight qualifying at-home tests can be obtained per member each month. Some COVID-19 test kits include two tests per box. Those kits count as two tests.
- An order from a qualified health professional is not required to obtain over-the-counter, at-home tests from one of the network pharmacies.
- Reimbursement does not apply for tests used for employment purposes.

### **When to use COVID-19 Test Kits**

Testing is an important tool to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Public health experts and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that Americans use at-home tests if they begin to have symptoms, at least five days after coming in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 or are gathering indoors with a group of people who are unvaccinated or at risk of severe disease.

**Reminder:** Blue Cross will still cover other types of COVID-19 diagnostic tests if they are FDA authorized and ordered by a qualified health professional.

## **Medicare Advantage Participants**

Currently, Original Medicare doesn't pay for over-the-counter COVID-19 tests. You can pick up free at-home tests from community health centers and Medicare-certified health clinics, or you can visit [COVIDtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov) to order a free COVID-19 at-home test. In early Spring 2022, members with Medicare will be able to go to a network of pharmacies and health care facilities to get up to 8 free, over-the-counter COVID-19 tests a month through Medicare.

Sincerely,

Board of Trustees  
Flint Plumbing & Pipefitting Industry Health Care Fund

### **Free N95 Masks**

The CDC has updated its face mask guidance to emphasize the better protection offered by N95 and KN95 face masks. The Federal government is distributing 400 million N95 masks for free, available through pharmacies and community health centers across the country. Starting in February, three free N95 facemasks will be available per adult. Meijer, Kroger, Walgreens, and CVS are among the participating pharmacies participating in the free N95 mask distribution.