Los Angeles COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Testing Pilot

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| The University of Southern California (USC) is collaborating with the Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health on a study to examine the use of coronavirus rapid antigen tests among first responders and school-aged children.  The goal of this study is to find the best methods for using these inexpensive tests to reopen schools and businesses. Rapid tests have the potential to quickly alert people who are contagious and need to isolate, thereby limiting the number of new infections. Los Angeles is one of the first metropolitan areas in the country to launch a large-scale pilot study of rapid tests in both symptomatic and asymptomatic participants.  |
| Part I • Firefighters & Frontline Essential WorkersThe first part of the study includes firefighters and frontline essential workers receiving three COVID-19 tests at L.A. City testing sites: a self-administered rapid antigen test, a lab-based PCR test, and an antibody test to identify prior infection. The study will provide insight into how each test performs and how to best administer these tests to essential frontline workers. |
| Part II • School-age ChildrenThe second part of the study seeks to determine the most feasible and efficient way to conduct rapid antigen testing to proactively screen school-aged children for COVID-19. Researchers will evaluate different strategies to test large numbers of students and develop real-world guidance for using rapid antigen testing to safely reopen schools.Researchers will conduct focus groups and interviews with school administrators, teachers, parents, and students to co-create reopening plans that utilize rapid antigen tests. The research team will then partner with schools to implement and evaluate these plans, providing all necessary support, such as initial antigen tests and testing staff, to safely reopen. Students will be offered rapid antigen tests and parents will be asked to complete an online survey to better understand the opinions of rapid antigen testing for students. |
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