

Governor Walz Announces \$40 Million to Continue Expanding COVID-19 Testing in Minnesota

Funding will allow Minnesota to order more rapid tests in the weeks and months ahead

Expansion follows Governor Walz's actions last week to provide more testing through free Community Testing sites, schools, and partners

Today, Governor Tim Walz announced his intention to provide \$40 million in new funding to continue to expand COVID-19 testing resources in Minnesota.

The \$40 million will go directly to purchasing COVID-19 rapid tests and getting them in the hands of Minnesotans across the state as quickly as possible. Minnesota is actively negotiating with testing manufactures to increase their supply of rapid testing in the weeks and months ahead. Governor Walz [submitted his plan for the funding from the American Rescue Plan](#) to the Legislative COVID-19 Response Commission on Wednesday.

“Today, we are continuing our efforts to provide free testing to Minnesotans across the state,” said Governor Walz. **“No Minnesotan should have to go without a COVID-19 test because they can’t afford it, and we’re tapping every available resource to make sure every Minnesotan gets the public health tools they need to stay safe.”**

“COVID-19 testing is a critical public health tool, and every Minnesotan deserves equitable access,” said Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan. **“Today we’re taking action to provide more access to tests for Minnesotans when and where they need them.”**

Last week, Governor Walz [took a series of actions](#) to expand testing capacity through various channels, including:

- New locations, higher capacity, and expanded hours in the state’s Community Testing network;
- 1.8 million rapid tests for school districts to use during the spring semester and;
- 150,000 rapid tests to be distributed to vulnerable communities through community partners.