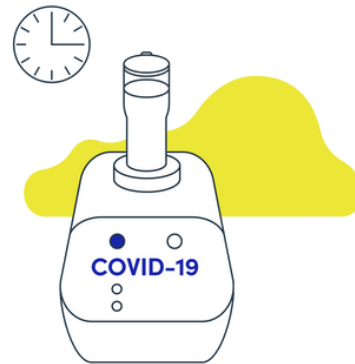


Delivering COVID self-tests through GetaKit.ca: Creating testing access during a pandemic

Between September 2021 to April 2022, GetaKit adapted its HIV self-test study to include the distribution of free COVID self-tests. During that time, we distributed 6,474 COVID self-tests to 3,653 people in Ontario who registered through the GetaKit.ca website. Given that BIPOC folks had higher rates of infection and death in comparison to the entire population of Ontario, GetaKit purposely modified its algorithm for COVID risk assessments to make sure that the BIPOC community were more likely to receive COVID self-tests. As a result of the algorithm update, and intentional outreach, 47% of total GetaKit COVID self-test orders came from BIPOC folks.

We found that BIPOC participants were more likely than white participants to be:

- unvaccinated against COVID,
- be male,
- a contact of someone with COVID,
- asymptomatic



What does this tell us?

BIPOC communities in Ontario found the GetaKit.ca website useful for ordering and submitting results from their COVID self-tests. So much so, positivity rates matched local COVID testing centres.

Despite this success, the study did not overcome systemic socioeconomic obstacles (57% of all participants reported an income over \$50,000). It is important to remember that barriers to in-person care experienced by members of the BIPOC community cannot be addressed solely by an online service as virtual care can be problematic for folks with limited internet access or who experience challenges with digital literacy.

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