

2022 -- S 2332

=====
LC004074
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

—————
A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- COVID-19 RAPID TEST KIT AND N95 MASK PROGRAM

Introduced By: Senators Mendes, Calkin, Valverde, Mack, Anderson, and Acosta

Date Introduced: February 15, 2022

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 23 of the General Laws entitled "HEALTH AND SAFETY" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 97

4 COVID-19 RAPID TEST KIT AND N95 MASK PROGRAM

5 **23-97-1. Distribution of COVID-19 rapid test kits and N95 masks.**

6 (a) The department of health shall establish a program for the distribution of COVID-19
7 rapid test kits and N95 masks, to be distributed by US mail to all households and household
8 members in the State of Rhode Island, as determined by the most recent census conducted by the
9 United States Census Bureau test kits and N95 masks. Additional distribution centers will be made
10 available to serve unhoused or housing insecure Rhode Islanders with the manual distribution of
11 N95 masks and rapid test kits. Homeless shelters, warming centers, harm reduction centers, and
12 health equity zones shall be provided with a sufficient supply of COVID-19 rapid test kits and N95
13 masks to serve their typical client demands.

14 (b) The provisions of this section shall remain in effect for six (6) months after passage or
15 so long as the COVID-19 related disaster emergency declaration is made pursuant to § 30-15-9,
16 whichever is longest.

17 (c) Each delivery shall include one mask per member of the household and one test kit per
18 member of the household, and shall be delivered weekly to each household. Each delivery shall

- 1 [include a one page fact sheet about the importance of wearing a mask in English, and a translation](#)
- 2 [into the appropriate language or languages for the area/community.](#)
- 3 [\(d\) The department of health shall be empowered to institute such rules and regulations](#)
- 4 [necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.](#)
- 5 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====
LC004074
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- COVID-19 RAPID TEST KIT AND N95 MASK
PROGRAM

1 This act would require the department of health to institute a program for distribution of
2 N95 masks and COVID-19 test kits to every household in Rhode Island and manual distribution to
3 unhooded, housing insecure Rhode Islanders, homeless shelters, warming centers, harm reduction
4 centers and health equity zones.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

=====
LC004074
=====