

February 16, 2022

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for your ongoing work to support individuals with disabilities and older adults throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of the Administration's response to the highly transmissible Omicron variant, the Biden-Harris Administration is taking action to increase access to COVID-19 tests and high-quality masks, particularly for people at higher risk.

Over the coming weeks, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will continue working with community health centers and rural health clinics on the free distribution of both [N95 respirator masks](#) and [over-the-counter COVID-19 tests for at-home use](#). The program is building and will expand and include additional health centers, rural health clinics and resources in the coming weeks.

As the program ramps up, there is an opportunity for Administration for Community Living (ACL)-supported aging and disability networks to partner with HRSA's network of community providers on this important effort. Older adults and people with disabilities—particularly those from underserved communities—have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and are among the most at-risk due to COVID-19. Partnerships between community providers and aging and disability networks can be an important strategy for supporting those most at-risk.

Please note that options for the distribution of masks and tests through aging and disability networks may vary based on different levels of capacity, participation, and product availability for different health centers and rural health clinics across the country. Early engagement between health centers and aging and disability networks can help to facilitate planning and opportunities for collaboration.

To find a health center near you, visit [Find A Health Center](#). To find aging and disability network partners near you, utilize links in [this ACL fact sheet](#). Also, you can email ACL to request assistance with making a connection at ACLinfo@acl.gov.

Thank you for all of the important work that you are doing in communities across the country as we continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,



Carole Johnson
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Health Resources and Services Administration



Alison Barkoff
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