

Boston University School of Social Work

264 Bay State Road
Boston, Massachusetts 02215
T 617-353-3760 F 617-353-3913
www.bu.edu/ssw



Office of the Dean

To: Coalition for Social Work and Health members
From: Jorge Delva, MSW, PhD *Jorge Delva*
Dean, Boston University School of Social Work
Director and Paul Farmer Professor, Center for Innovation in Social Work and Health
Date: January 24, 2022
RE: Equitable distribution of in-home COVID tests

Dear Colleagues,

On January 19, the Biden administration opened a [website](#) to accept orders from U.S. residents for free, rapid antigen test kits to be delivered to their homes via the U.S. Postal Service. The administration is committed to providing half a billion tests nationwide. This is good news in the fight against COVID-19, but there is reason for concern that certain populations served by social workers across the country will not benefit from equitable distribution of the tests. We are particularly concerned about whether people with low incomes, communities of color, immigrants, refugees, migrants, non-English speakers, rural communities, people with disabilities, elders, people with limited access to the internet, and others subject to health inequity will know about and take advantage of the Biden administration's program.

Boston University School of Social Work ([BUSSW](#)) Center for Innovation in Social Work & Health ([CISWH](#)) is cooperating with the [National Association of Community Health Workers](#) to provide an array of education, advocacy, and access links to help social work agencies and other community based organizations improve opportunities for people they serve to receive the in-home test kits to which they are entitled. We have sent the attached letter to all of BUSSW's Field Education agency partners across the United States.

I am writing to invite you to use the letter as a template, customize it for your own constituents, and distribute it as widely and as soon as possible. I have also reached out to NASW, CSWE, and NADD executives to encourage schools of social work across the country to do the same. Making this information available is a concrete way our profession can make a significant and timely contribution to promoting health equity, limiting further spread of the pandemic, and saving lives and hospitalizations.

I hope this information is useful to you and look forward to your response. Thank you very much.