



MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE OFFERING FREE COVID-19 TESTS
IN RESPONSE TO HOME-TESTING DIFFICULTIES FACING VISUALLY IMPAIRED

WHAT: Free COVID-19 testing for blind and visually impaired persons

WHERE: Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired
601 Southwest 8th Avenue
Miami, Florida 33130

WHEN: Monday, January 24, 2022
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 P.M. EST

DETAILS: Miami Lighthouse will begin providing free COVID-19 testing for blind and visually impaired persons, responding to the difficulties that they experience with at-home rapid tests and accessibility to public testing sites. The agency will offer free transportation to its testing program to accommodate visually challenged persons who live alone or lack daytime transportation assistance.

Free COVID-19 testing for the visually impaired will be available at Miami Lighthouse every Monday, beginning January 24. Accessible Home Healthcare of Aventura has partnered with Miami Lighthouse to make this program available.

In addition to challenges related obtaining at-home test kits, the blind and visually impaired face other obstacles in regard to testing. Packaging on all major-brand test kits lack Braille instructions and at-home tests require hand/eye abilities that the visually impaired lack to independently administer and read them.

The Miami Lighthouse program also is intended to ease the COVID-19 testing process for the visually impaired in other ways. Miami Lighthouse's team of website accessibility audit specialists determined that the White House's COVID-19 testing registration site has technical shortcomings that may create difficulties for the visually impaired. Notably, there is no accessibility statement on the site with contact information, which is necessary if the user needs help navigating the site. There is also no widget for low vision users to change the font or color contrast of the site. Providing the tests and reporting results directly to clients, Miami Lighthouse removes those concerns.