



Retired Public Employees Association

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Diana M. Hinchcliff, *President* Edward C. Farrell, *Executive Director*
Representing the interests of 500,000 New York state and local government retirees

January 20, 2022

Senator Charles Schumer
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-3203

RE: Medicare COVID-19 Test Reimbursement

Dear Senator Schumer:

The Retired Public Employees Association, representing the interests of nearly 500,000 retirees in New York, calls to your attention that unlike other insurers, Medicare does not cover free at-home, over the counter, COVID-19 tests. This policy does not make any sense.

If any portion of the population is most at risk from the effects of COVID infection, it is the elderly. That has been the case from day one of the outbreak. To preclude that group from going to the local pharmacy to obtain 8 free tests per month, to be administered in the convenience of their home, does not make any sense, and it discriminatory based purely on age.

RPEA urges you to intercede with President Biden to have the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services reverse this ill-conceived policy. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Edward C. Farrell
Executive Director