

Dear Long Term Care Facility Partners,

Your facility will be receiving or has already received a COVID-19 rapid antigen testing instrument.

CMS released [guidance](#) on facility testing requirements for residents and staff in CMS certified facilities. Items of note are below:

- When prioritizing individuals to be tested, facilities should prioritize individuals with signs and symptoms of COVID-19 first, then perform testing triggered by an outbreak.

Table 1: Testing Summary

Testing Trigger	Staff	Residents
Symptomatic individual identified	Staff with signs and symptoms must be tested	Residents with signs and symptoms must be tested
Outbreak (Any new case arises in facility)	Test all staff that previously tested negative until no new cases are identified*	Test all residents that previously tested negative until no new cases are identified*
Routine testing	According to Table 2 below	Not recommended, unless the resident leaves the facility routinely.

*For outbreak testing, all staff and residents should be tested, and all staff and residents that tested negative should be retested every 3 to 7 days until no new cases of COVID-19 infection are detected among staff or residents for a period of at least 14 days since the most recent positive result.

- Routine testing of staff should be based on the extent of the virus in the community, therefore facilities should use the [county positivity rate in the prior week](#) published by CMS as the trigger for staff testing frequency.

Table 2: Routine Testing Intervals Vary by Community COVID-19 Activity Level

Community COVID-19 Activity	County Positivity Rate in the past week	Minimum Testing Frequency
Low	<5%	Once a month
Medium	5% - 10%	Once a week*
High	>10%	Twice a week*

*This frequency presumes availability of Point of Care testing on-site at the nursing home or where off-site testing turnaround time is <48 hours.

All positive and negative COVID-19 test results are required to be reported directly to ADHS pursuant to [Executive Order 2020-37](#). Your facility is also required to report positive results to your [county health departments](#).

There are two methods for reporting these results to ADHS.

- The preferred method is to register your facility with this [Google Form](#). Once registered, you will receive another link to enter reports into a separate Google Form. A guidance

document on this process is attached and will soon be available on the [Lab Resources webpage](#).

- The second option is to follow the flat file reporting requirements outlined on the [Lab Resources webpage](#). If files are not submitted in the proper format, you will be required to resubmit the file in the appropriate format.

In collaboration with ADHS and DEMA, the National Guard is offering on-site training on using the test instruments, logistical considerations, and reporting via the Google Form. If your facility is interested in having on-site training by the National Guard, please contact LT Nishitkumar Patel at nishitkumar.patel.4@us.af.mil or 520-328-4512.

If your facility is not currently testing and reporting, your facility should maintain documentation of the efforts to get testing and reporting up and running.

As a reminder, ADHS COVID-19 Guidance for Long-term Care Facilities is available [online](#).

Questions related to the reporting process should be directed to reportingquestions@azdhs.gov.

Questions related to licensing issues should be directed to lrc.licensing@azdhs.gov.