



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
*of* HEALTH SERVICES

# Skilled Nursing Facilities Testing Initiative Updates

28 May 2020

# Overview

- Approximately 88% are testing or have tested their residents and staff. *Thank you all for your ongoing efforts to protect some of our most vulnerable citizens!*
- Encouraged to send the specimens back on a daily basis to ensure the integrity of the specimens & assist in timely processing.
- Additional guidance about ongoing testing strategies, in line with CMS guidance, to support each facility's ability and safety to reopen to visitors under development.

# Testing

- If a provider does not intend to begin testing at this time, please do not order test kits until ready to do so; this allows the current supply to be sent to organizations that are actively testing.
- Exact Science test kits continue to be available and should be returned to the lab for processing no later than December 31, 2020 which is the current end of the CARES Act funding.

# Local Public Health

- Many local public health departments have existing relationships with facilities due to other outbreak scenarios.
- For information about building local capacity for testing, please refer to the [Overview of Wisconsin's COVID-19 Testing Plan](#).
- Local public health officers will be contacting staff with positive results; it is not necessary for staff to call local public health.

# Staffing Shortages

- New resources for addressing staffing issues posted under [Planning for Staffing Shortages](#):
  - Developing a contingency staffing plan that identifies the minimum staffing needs and prioritizes critical and non-essential services based on residents' health status, functional limitations, disabilities, and essential facility operations.
  - Assigning a person to conduct a daily assessment of staffing status and needs during a COVID-19 outbreak.
  - Contracting with staffing agencies, local hospitals, clinics, and health insurance companies to fill professional and nonprofessional roles.
  - Exploring all state-specific emergency waivers or changes to licensure requirements or renewals that may allow for staffing flexibility.

# Statistics

- Over 125,000 COVID results processed
- Over 50,000 results last week alone
- Over 10,000 samples from SNFs
- Coordinating with over 300 SNFs

# Specimen Acceptance Criteria

- Specimen Identification
- Specimen Collection
- Specimen Transport
- Exception Handling
- Community Event-Based Collections

**Specimens that do not meet the  
Acceptance Criteria may be rejected**

# Testing Timeline

- Time of collection to time of receipt:
  - Same-day (24 hours)
- Time from receipt to result:
  - Expected 72 hours

**Questions about results?  
Check EpicCare Link or  
Call 844-570-9730**

# Electronic Result Resources

- One-pager of EpicCare FAQs
- Exact Sciences EpicCare Link Guide
- Exact Sciences account manager
- Call 844-570-9730 for additional support