

Testing Update

CMS QSO-20-38-NH: Interim Final Rule (IFC), CMS-3401-IFC, Additional Policy and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency related to Long-Term Care (LTC) Facility Testing Requirements and Revised COVID-19 Focused Survey Tool

- CMS Memo is in effect. State cannot alter or waive federally mandated testing requirements.
- State is working to develop lab capacity to provide SNFs with state-sponsored bi-weekly routine staff testing
- State sponsored testing may not meet all testing requirements of the CMS memo and facilities must plan for meeting testing requirements through poc antigen testing and/or lab testing
- If your facility does not currently have access to state-sponsored staff testing you still must comply with the federal testing mandates in the CMS memo.

Considerations for Interpreting Antigen Test Results in Nursing Homes

	Positive Test	Negative Test	Additional Information
<i>Testing of Symptomatic Residents or Healthcare Professionals (HCP):</i>	If an antigen test is positive, no confirmatory test is necessary.	If an antigen test is presumptive negative, perform RT-PCR immediately (e.g., within 48 hours).	
<i>Testing of Asymptomatic Residents or Healthcare Professionals (HCP) in Nursing Homes as part of an Outbreak Response</i>	If an antigen test is positive, no confirmatory test is necessary.	If an antigen test is presumptive negative, residents should be placed in <u>appropriate precautions</u> . HCP should be allowed to continue to work with <u>continued symptom monitoring</u> . The facility should continue serial viral testing (antigen or RT-PCR) every 3-7 days until no new cases are identified for a 14-day period.	The FDA has granted Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA) to certain antigen tests for testing specimens from individuals who are suspected of COVID-19 by their healthcare provider within a number of days after the onset of symptoms, specific to each authorized test's validated performance. Facilities need to have a CLIA Certificate of Waiver to perform testing
<i>Testing of Asymptomatic HCP in Nursing Homes without an Outbreak per CMS Recommendations</i>	If an antigen test is positive, perform confirmatory RT-PCR test within 48 hours of the antigen test, especially in counties with low prevalence. If confirmatory test is performed, HCP should be excluded from work until confirmatory test results are completed.	If an antigen test is presumptive negative, allow HCP to continue to work. The HCP should continue to monitor for symptoms, and serial testing should continue per <u>CMS recommendations</u> .	<u>CMS recommends</u> initial testing of all HCP as part of the nursing home reopening process and serial testing of HCP at an interval based on local incidence of COVID-19.

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Considerations for Use of SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Testing in Nursing Homes

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/nursing-homes-antigen-testing.html>

CDC Antigen testing Decision Tree

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/hcp/nursing-home-testing-algorithm-508.pdf>

FDA Guidance for “off-label” antigen testing:

https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/pooled-sample-testing-and-screening-testing-covid-19?utm_campaign=2020-0821%20Pooled%20Sample%20Testing%20and%20Screening%20Testing&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua

- COVID-19 Webinar for Health Care Providers: "Antigen Testing Concerns and Strategies" Friday, September 11, 7:00-8:00 a.m.; Dial: 312 626 6799 or 646 558 8656; Webinar ID: 233 994 680
- DHS testing **web portal** to report and schedule outbreak testing and to request testing supplies: <https://covid19supplies.wi.gov/Testing>
- If you have testing questions, please email WICOVIDTest@WI.gov