
Clarifications for Guidance Sent 4/17/20—For Nursing Homes Only

May 4, 2020

Nursing Home Administrators,

You received guidance from the Department of Health (DOH) on April 17, 2020 with testing instructions for your facilities. We apologize for the confusion and have made every attempt to be responsive to your emails and calls with clarification. This notice serves as written clarification outlining the surveillance testing for nursing home facilities only.

Guidance for Assisted Living and Independent Living Facilities will be addressed in a separate notice.

Surveillance Testing for Nursing Homes

- Nursing Homes with no positive Covid-19 cases will randomly test 15% of residents and 15% staff, weekly until further notice beginning Friday, May 1, 2020. This process is being used to mitigate and monitor Covid-19 test results.
- Facilities must test **symptomatic** residents and staff immediately and follow the guidance for isolation precautions and for symptomatic employees.
- Ordering Test Kits: Facilities will contact the DOC at Coordinator.DOC@state.nm.us to order kits. Only request the amount that totals 15% of your residents and 15% of your staff censuses. You will need to place this request weekly to the DOC, as there is no auto-send option at this time.
- Facilities will keep a log of residents and staff tested to include, names, DOB, date tested, and date sent to the state lab. Complete all areas of the test requisition, including your facility name. **If someone becomes symptomatic during this timeframe follow the guidance for isolation precautions and for symptomatic employees.**
- Complete all highlighted sections of the lab requisition form and check the “Expediate” box. You do not need submitter information.
- Testing results will be sent to the Administrator. The turn-around time for receiving test results is approximately 24-48 hours.
- Record test results on the surveillance log. Notify DOH immediately of any positive tests for further instructions.

Please contact Sonya Smith, MHC, CHC, special projects coordinator, DOH for more information:
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