

NYSHFA-NYSCAL Resource Page RE: EO 202.30

The following information and links are to assist you with what kind of tests must be used, where to find testing, procedures for collecting specimens and who can collect them. This is to the best of our knowledge at this time. We will keep you updated as new or additional information is determined.

Approved Test

The diagnostic test is a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test that detects viral nucleic acid. PCR tests diagnose active COVID-19 infection by detecting the RNA genetic material in the COVID-19 virus. PCR tests are collected through a **nasal or throat swab** and are usually performed in a lab (with the exception of several point-of-care devices on the market.)

Testing

Members should review AHCA/NCAL's [testing guidance](#) for guidance.

How to Access Testing

- 1) Contact your local health department to seek availability of tests. Document your communications and the steps you take as a result.
- 2) Refer to the list of sites distributed by DOH: <https://www.nyshfa-nyscal.org/files/2020/05/NH-ACF-testing-FAQ-1.pdf>
- 3) Refer to AHCA/NCAL's list of vendors who provide testing in nursing home/ACF settings using FDA approved tests. This list is continually updated as new vendors and testing opportunities are available, so please check back frequently.
https://www.ahcancal.org/facility_operations/disaster_planning/Documents/COVID%20Testing%20Vendors%204%209%2020.pdf
- 4) Point-of-Care testing devices (devices that can process a specimen on site) are also on the market, but not yet widely available. According to CMS guidance, tests authorized as point-of care can be performed under all CLIA certificate types.
- 5) Call Lab Vendors you normally use.
- 6) Contact local hospitals and primary care/urgent care clinics in your area.
- 7) The FDA testing site has information as well. <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/emergency-situations-medical-devices/emergency-use-authorizations>
Scroll down to the bottom of link
- 8) Additional Online services for collection kits and testing ability are available: check for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).

Specimen Collection

Follow the test instructions but also check with state regulations including scope of practice on who can collect these samples in nursing homes/ACFs and also who can perform the tests if they are being done on site. At this time, DOH has indicated RN and MD can collect specimens once they have a competency. CDC notes the specimen collection process is the same process for influenza specimen collection and identifies the PPE and process required. The CDC link below provides specific information on testing directions, processes to follow and additional guidance.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fguidelines-clinical-specimens.html

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/professionals/flu-specimen-collection-poster.pdf>

Required Testing Plan for NYSDOH

- Your testing plan will be submitted via your HERDS survey, however, your facility must have a documented testing process. See outline: https://nyshfanyscalpriority.nyshfa.org/attachment/1979/mm20-105.pdf?g_download=1
- Document your intent and activity implemented to be compliant with the EO and notate any barriers inhibiting compliance (labs can't manage, not enough supply etc.) utilize the local EMO if you cannot get supplies and email to COVIDadultcareinfo@health.ny.gov or the COVIDnursinghomeinfo@health.ny.gov. Note any testing supply issues on the daily HERDS survey.

Laboratory Vendors

In absence of direction from the state health department, facilities can refer to AHCA/NCAL's [list of vendors](#) who can provide testing in the long term care setting. This list is continually updated as new vendors and testing opportunities are available, so please check back frequently.

Staff Plan for Return to Work

Providers should review the CDC [Return to Work Criteria](#) guidance for considerations for permitting health care providers (HCP) to return to work without meeting all return to work criteria outlined. In addition, providers should refer to CDC's [Strategies to Mitigate Healthcare Personnel Staffing Shortages](#) for information on contingency and crisis strategies should a large number of your staff test positive. Here is the NYS DOH guidance on Return to Work.

[https://nyshfanyscalpriority.nyshfa.org/en/56/1/10083/DOH-Criteria-for-Return-to-Work-for-Healthcare-Personnel-with-Confirmed-or-Suspected-COVID-19-\(Interim-Guidance\).htm](https://nyshfanyscalpriority.nyshfa.org/en/56/1/10083/DOH-Criteria-for-Return-to-Work-for-Healthcare-Personnel-with-Confirmed-or-Suspected-COVID-19-(Interim-Guidance).htm)

Cohort Residents

Residents who test positive for COVID-19 must be isolated and wear a source control mask until placed in isolation. Providers are encouraged to follow AHCA/NCAL guidance on [steps to take when COVID-19 gets in](#). Providers should also explore [cohorting](#) with other positive residents, if possible.

Resources

- **NYS DAL Personnel Testing**
- **NYS DOH Nursing Home and ACF Testing Requirements FAQ#1 - May 12**