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Emergency Rule: Hospital COVID-19 Testing Requirements for Long-term Care Facility Residents

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 at long-term care and residential facilities, the Agency for Health Care Administration issued [Emergency Rule 59AER20-1](#). **This rule requires COVID-19 testing by hospitals of all patients, regardless of symptoms, prior to discharge to long-term care facilities.**

Hospitals are prohibited from discharging any patient who tests positive for COVID-19 to a long-term care facility until the resident has two consecutive negative test results separated by 24 hours unless the receiving facility has a dedicated COVID-19 wing, unit or building with dedicated staff to exclusively care for COVID-19 patients. Long-term care and residential facilities listed in the emergency rule include nursing homes, assisted living facilities, intermediate care facilities for the developmentally disabled and group home facilities.

To see the emergency rule, please visit: https://ahca.myflorida.com/docs/Emergency_Rule_59AER20-1.pdf or visit the Agency's Hospital and Outpatient Services Unit [webpage](#).

Agency resources related to COVID-19 can be accessed on the Agency's COVID-19 alerts for facilities and Medicaid providers website: http://ahca.myflorida.com/covid-19_alerts.shtml

The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida's Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 44,000 health care facilities and 53 health plans, and publishes health care data and statistics at www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov. Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via [Facebook \(AHCAFlorida\)](#), [Twitter \(@AHCA_FL\)](#) and [YouTube \(/AHCAFlorida\)](#).