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June 23, 2020

Mandatory COVID-19 Testing for Nursing Home and Assisted Living Facility Staff Logistics

On June 15, 2020, the Agency adopted [Emergency Rule 59AER20-4](#) and [Emergency Rule 59AER20-5](#). These rules require nursing home and assisted living facility staff to be tested for COVID-19 every two weeks with testing resources provided by the state. Each staff member, as defined by rule, is required to submit the test results to their employer/facility. The facility must keep copies of all staff testing documentation on site.

The Division of Emergency Management has contracted with a single testing vendor, Curative Labs, Inc., to distribute all testing kits by mail and/or courier directly to all facilities for staff testing. Curative is contracted to perform all laboratory analysis and must provide results within 48 hours of receipt.

The tests mailed by Curative allow for self-administered specimen collection and do not require a nurse or other health care professional to administer the specimen collection. Each facility will use a pre-addressed return shipping label to mail all completed tests to the administering lab who will collect and process all results.

Testing

- All staff are required to be tested every 2 weeks.
- Testing kits provided by Curative are intended for staff testing only.
- Each facility will receive an initial shipment of testing kits to complete 2 rounds (one month) of testing for each staff member.
- All tests must be administered at the facility; testing kits are not to be taken home by staff.
- The facility is responsible for administration of the tests, must follow all instruction for processing, and must verify that all staff have been tested in accordance with the emergency rule.

Welcome Email from Curative and Receipt of Testing Kits

- Every Facility will receive an email from Curative indicating anticipated date of arrival of testing kits, and date range to complete testing. A facility's failure to comply with specific shipping dates may affect processing time.
- The Curative email will provide a link to a video demonstrating how the test may be self-administered by staff through an oral or nasal swab.
- The Curative email will provide further instructions on how to:
 - Collect and observe the specimen sample
 - Register the person tested and barcoded specimen sample through the Curative web portal
 - Ship staff specimen samples to the lab
 - Contact information for Curative to address questions or request additional test kits for new employees.

Each facility administrator will be provided access to their testing information through the Curative web portal.

Each facility will receive test kits based on the number of staff entered into ESS for "Total number of employees (i.e. clinical, housekeeping, nutrition, maintenance, administration, and contract)" include all positions, all shifts including contract as of June 22, 2020.

The emergency rules require facilities use this state-provided testing for all staff, regardless of any other arrangements for testing. The emergency rules will be in effect for a period up to 90 days from adoption, June 15, 2020.

Educational information and contact information for technical support will be provided by Curative. Frequently Asked Questions will be provided to address additional questions. Information will also be discussed during the FHCA and Partners Long Term Care Facility call Thursday, June 25, at 4:15 EST and posted on the [AHCA COVID website](#).

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 \(/AHCAFlorida\)](#).