
Coronavirus Disease (COVID- 19) Testing Capacity Updates to Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCFs) December 4, 2020

Purpose: This letter gives updated information regarding the currently limited capacity of Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) to support surveillance testing for LTCFs.

A. Background

- a. On August 26 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released guidance in [Memo QSO-20-38-NH](#) with expectations for routine testing of staff.
- b. The frequency of testing depends on two factors: (1) county positivity rate (2) availability of testing results in < 48 hours.
- c. If the 48-hour turn-around time cannot be met the facility should document its efforts to obtain quick turnaround test results with the identified laboratory or laboratories and contact with the local and state health departments.

B. SCPH Testing Resources

- a. SCPH is able to support weekly surveillance testing. LTCFs may request either:
 - i. Mobile Testing Teams to collect and deliver specimens to the lab; or
 - ii. Swab materials which qualified staff within the LTCF can use to collect specimens.

Both options are free to LTCFs. Results may take up to 72 hours.

- b. SCPH is not able to support twice per week testing. This includes mobile testing teams and swab materials. Only one option is available to LTCFs in a given week.
- c. LTCFs with fewer than 10 staff: staff should seek testing through their health care provider or at one of the sites listed [here](#).
 - i. Otherwise, small LTCFs will be scheduled on Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- d. Mobile Testing Teams may prioritize response-driven testing related to outbreaks if resources are limited. Scheduled LTCFs will be notified and rescheduled as soon as and if possible.
- e. If available, LTCFs can meet the testing requirements using rapid point-of-care (POC) diagnostic testing devices, and must have a CLIA Certificate of Waiver.