
Guidelines for Testing Incoming and Existing Residents of Long Term Care Facilities (LTCFs) and Staff

May 9, 2020

Purpose: To provide guidance and set expectations related to testing residents and staff for LTCFs in Sacramento County and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in congregate care settings. This action is based on the May 6, 2020 California Department of Public Health guidance on LTCF testing (see attached).

A. Prior to Discharge from Acute Care Facility

- a. All patients being discharged from an Acute Care to a Long-Term Care Facility must be tested for COVID-19.
- b. The discharging facility will collect a specimen and, if possible, will process the specimen in-facility.
- c. If in-facility processing is not possible, the specimen will be sent to the Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) Laboratory. It is not required for Acute Care Facilities to inform SCPH with every specimen collection. Information regarding “discharge to LTCF” should be noted on the specimen.
- d. Upon receipt of test results, the acute care facility will immediately share those results with the admitting LTCF.
- e. LTCFs should not deny patient transfers based on COVID-19 status or availability of results. Results are for planning purposes to ensure appropriate isolation measures and transmission-based precautions are observed.

B. Mass Testing Strategies

- a. Sacramento County Public Health is now mandating testing of all residents and staff at LTCFs. Priority testing will be at facilities experiencing single cases, outbreaks, or suspect cases of COVID-19 among residents or staff. SCPH staff will contact LTCFs to coordinate and schedule testing. LTCFs may also call 916-875-5881 to schedule the testing. Coordination will also include assessment of staffing and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) needs.
- b. For facilities with a reported case or outbreak, repeat testing on residents that initially test negative may be recommended.
- c. Once a resident tests positive, no additional testing is needed for that resident. Please follow guidance provided on release from isolation (see attached).
- d. For facilities with no reported cases, one-time testing will be scheduled.

Sincerely,



Olivia Kasirye, MD, MS
Public Health Officer