

COVID-19 Testing in Ohio Nursing Facilities Congregate Care Unified Response Team

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated August 1, 2020

Nursing homes residents are among the most vulnerable for COVID-19 and comprise a high percentage of COVID-19 deaths in Ohio. To protect these residents and the staff who take care of them, the presence of COVID-19 in nursing home facilities must be identified so that measures can be put into place to isolate the virus and contain its spread.

Effective May 27, 2020, all licensed or certified nursing home facilities are subject to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) [Director's Order](#) and Guidelines. The guidelines and documents referenced comprise Ohio's approach to conducting baseline testing for nursing home residents and staff.

This frequently asked questions (FAQ) document was created to help answer any questions nursing facility administrators, staff, residents, or families may have about the testing process. This document will be updated as testing strategies and processes evolve.

Any questions or concerns can be sent to the Congregate Care Unified Response Teams at CCURT@odh.ohio.gov or please visit coronavirus.ohio.gov for more information.

QUESTION	ANSWER <i>***** denotes a new question or an answer that has been materially updated for this version of the FAQ document.</i>
Public Health Order & Operations	
1. What is the authority being used to implement nursing home facility (facility) testing?	Under ORC 3701.13 the Director of Health can create special public health orders. On May 27 th , 2020 the Director of ODH signed a Public Health Order requiring nursing home facilities to comply with ODH guidelines for testing of nursing home residents and staff. The Guidelines are available at Ohio's Testing in Nursing Homes website .
2. Where can I find the Public Health Order (the Order)?	The Order was provided via EIDC on 5/28/2020 and can be found online .
3. Which nursing homes must participate in testing pursuant to the Order?	Per the Order, each nursing home licensed by ODH or certified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), or by the Ohio Department of

	<p>Medicaid shall cooperate with the COVID-19 testing for staff and residents as required by ODH. These facilities shall require their employees to be tested in accordance with ODH guidelines.</p>
<p>4. What is the Congregate Care Unified Response Team (CCURT)?</p>	<p>The state's CCURT is coordinated with the state's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) under the authority of the ODH Director. The CCURT collaborates with facilities, labs, hospital zone leads, local hospital partners, and local health departments. The CCURT team is comprised of representatives from multiple state agencies. The CCURT can be emailed at CCURT@odh.ohio.gov.</p>
<p>5. Is the state supporting testing operations for nursing home?</p>	<p>Testing for staff in Ohio's nursing homes is currently being supported by the State's Congregate Care Unified Response Team and the Ohio National Guard (ONG). The state team is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating resources, including lab testing capacity across lab sites. • Coordinating the testing schedule. • Communicating with facilities, labs, local health departments; hospital zone and local hospital partners, and regional health care coordinators. • Providing technical assistance and support to facilities throughout the retesting and aftercare process. • Providing additional guidance for facilities to ensure access to testing for residents through local health departments and partner hospitals. <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>6. What should facilities do if they identify residents or staff who need to be tested because they are symptomatic and/or have known exposure to COVID-19?</p>	<p>Facilities that identify staff or residents who are symptomatic or who have known COVID-19 exposure should immediately contact their local health department for testing guidance. Each facility should work with their local coalition and assigned partner hospital to conduct additional testing that will lead to cohorting of residents and staff within facilities.</p> <p>Testing of symptomatic residents and staff should not be delayed until the assigned testing dates.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>7. Does the Order apply to assisted living or intermediate care facilities?</p>	<p>The Public Health Order applies only to nursing home facilities.</p>
<p>8. Is Ohio following the White House and CMS guidance for reopening nursing facilities?</p>	<p>The Order and ODH guidelines are consistent with President Trump's updated July 22, 2020 announcement on testing of nursing home residents and staff, the White House's Opening Up America Again guidelines, and the May 18, 2020 CMS Nursing Home Reopening Recommendations for State and Local Officials.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>

<p>9. How is testing pursuant to the Order being billed to health insurers and other sources of financing?</p>	<p>Employees' health insurance will be billed for all tests conducted using the state-supported testing process, and the State of Ohio will be the "payer of last resort" for costs not covered by other sources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All nursing home employees participating in the state-supported process for retesting nursing home staff must include complete and accurate health insurance information on their lab requisition forms. Employees with insurance must always include insurance information, even if the primary insurance carrier is a family member (e.g. employee has insurance through a spouse or parent) or other source. • "Uninsured" should only be marked when individuals have no source of health insurance. The HRSA Cares Act program for individuals without insurance may be billed by the state and its affiliated/contracted labs. • Per CARES Act regulations, individuals with insurance should not be subject to cost sharing (deductible/co-payment) for COVID-19 tests. • Tests for employees who do not include complete and accurate information will be billed directly to their nursing home employer. <p>The State is developing a process to financially support employee testing for nursing homes that are self-insured. Additional information about this process is forthcoming.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>10. What role will the Long-Term Care Ombudsman play as nursing homes work to comply with the Order?</p>	<p>The Long-Term Care Ombudsman's role in assuring protection of resident rights and responding to concerns remains unchanged. The Ombudsman will be available to educate residents and families who have questions and concerns about their rights, care, and communication.</p>
<p>11. How should facilities handle testing in end of life situations?</p>	<p>Hospice providers and family members are permitted in a facility in end of life situations without a COVID-19 test. This is pursuant to the Director's Fourth Amended Order to Limit Access to Ohio's Nursing Homes and Similar Facilities, with Exceptions dated July 2, 2020. End of life situations are defined in the Director's Order.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>12. Who is my point of contact for the CCURT?</p>	<p>Questions and comments for the CCURT can be sent to CCURT@odh.ohio.gov.</p>
<p>Lab Tests and Supplies</p>	
<p>13. What kind of tests are considered compliant for the purposes of the Order?</p>	<p>All testing completed to comply with the Order must be conducted using diagnostic RT-PCR or Rapid Point-of-Care (POC) Antigen Testing that is authorized under an FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>

<p>14. Can antibody testing be used to comply with the Order? Can specimens for antibody testing be collected as part of state-supported testing?</p>	<p>No. Only diagnostic tests can be used to comply with the Order. Diagnostic tests that comply with the Public Health Order include RT-PCR testing and antigen testing using FDA EUA Rapid POC devices. State-supported specimen collection will only be for used for RT-PCR testing.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>15. What kind of swabbing procedure will be used for specimen collection for the state-supported processes?</p>	<p>Anterior nares (AN) swabbing will be conducted for all staff and resident specimen collection. For additional guidance on AN specimen collection, please reference the COVID-19 Specimen Collection Clinical Checklist available on Ohio's Testing in Nursing Homes webpage.</p> <p><i>Please note: AN swabbing may be completed using an AN or a nasopharyngeal (NP) swab.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>16. Who is responsible for supplying test kit materials used for specimen collection for the state-supported processes?</p>	<p>The state of Ohio and its contracted labs are supplying all specimen collection kit materials to facilities to support compliance with the Order.</p> <p><i>Baseline staff testing:</i> kits were sent ahead to the facility or brought to the facility by the ONG team.</p> <p><i>Staff retesting:</i> kits will be shipped to the facility prior to the designated testing dates. The facility may receive up to 3x test kits in a single shipment to be used for 3 rounds of testing.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>17. Do COVID-19 tests need to be ordered by a medical professional?</p>	<p>COVID-19 tests for screening and diagnostic purposes must be ordered by a physician or other appropriate medical professional acting under their scope of practice.</p> <p>Physicians and other clinicians who order tests for residents and employees / staff will act within an appropriate standard of care. Testing can be ordered by the medical director at the facility, an advance practice nurse, or another appropriate clinician from a testing team, a hospital partnership, or other arrangement.</p> <p>The name and national provider identifier (NPI) of the ordering medical professional must be included on the lab requisition form.</p>
<p>18. Who is responsible for ordering resident and staff tests?</p>	<p>The facility's medical director has responsibility for infection control and health surveillance, including for facility staff, as well as residents. The medical director can order testing for all staff and residents in accordance with the Public Health Order and Ohio State Medical Board regulations O.A.C. 3701-17-13(A)(1)(b)(5).</p>
<p>19. What ICD 10 code should be used on orders for COVID-19 tests?</p>	<p>See the CDC's guidelines for ICD-10 coding for information regarding diagnosis codes to include on COVID-19 test orders.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>

20. Can a standing order be used to order resident and/or staff tests?	The facility's medical director can issue a standing order for the testing of residents and staff.
21. How will orders and patient information be transmitted to the lab?	Facilities must use the lab form/portal for their assigned lab – either a state supported lab or a commercial lab. *****
22. Is documentation of resident or staff consent required for testing? Should the facility obtain parental/guardian consent before conducting testing for staff under age 18?	Nursing facilities should follow their standard consent procedures for both residents and staff as they work to comply with the Order.
General Staff Testing Questions	
23. Which nursing home employees need to be tested? Do contract and agency staff need to be tested? Do volunteers and other types of caregivers need to be tested?	<p>The Order applies to all nursing home employees. This includes current employees and new hires. Each facility in Ohio shall require its employees to be tested.</p> <p>Each licensed and/or certified facility must follow the infection control requirements set forth in regulations. These include developing a system of identifying and controlling the spread of communicable diseases among residents and employees, as well as all others who enter the building, including but not limited to: contract and agency staff (including phlebotomists, attending physicians, etc.), volunteers, and private caregivers. Please note: per the Director's Fourth <u>Amended Order to Limit Access to Ohio's Nursing Homes and Similar Facilities, with Exceptions</u> dated July 2, 2020, individuals participating in end-of-life situations are permitted in-person visitation and should not be required to be tested first. End of life situations are defined in the referenced Director's Order.</p> <p>PRN staff do not need to be included in staff retesting if they are not scheduled to work, however once they are scheduled to work, they must have a test specimen collected/swabbed to begin working. PRN staff can begin work while awaiting results if they do not display symptoms. The facility must ensure PRN staff who begin to work prior to receiving negative test results must be treated as if they were exposed to COVID-19 and must properly wear face masks at all times, including during breaks, to avoid exposing other personnel.</p> <p>While not subject to the Order, CCURT strongly encourages nursing home non-employees (e.g. contract and agency staff, volunteers, and private caregivers.) who come and go from the facility to be tested every other week. As of the date of this document's publication, facilities are permitted to include these types of non-employees in</p>

	<p>their state-supported testing plan by counting them in the number of requested test kits. CCURT is carefully monitoring supplies and lab capacity; future shortages of resources may preclude non-employees from being included in future rounds of state-supported testing.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>24. If an assisted living facility is connected to the nursing facility, will assisted living staff also be required to be tested?</p>	<p>The order only applies to nursing home facility employees. All employees that enter areas or buildings where nursing facility residents live or congregate should get a baseline test and be retested every other week, as outlined in the ODH guidelines available on Ohio Testing in Nursing Home's webpage.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>25. When does the requirement for staff retesting begin?</p>	<p>Effective August 3, 2020 facilities will be required to perform re-testing of their staff at least once every other week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities testing without state support should begin testing all employees at least every other week beginning between August 1-14. • Facilities participating in the state-supported process will also begin testing every other week in August. Due to the roll out of the state-supported schedule, some facilities testing with state support may begin testing every other week after August 14. <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>26. How often are nursing facilities expected to retest staff.</p>	<p>Facilities will be required, per the Order and Guidelines, to perform re-testing of their staff at least once every other week.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>27. Are nursing homes required to participate in the state's process for staff baseline testing and/or staff retesting?</p>	<p>Facilities can meet the requirements of the order for staff testing by participating in state-supported testing and/or by conducting staff testing without state support.</p> <p><i>Baseline testing without state support</i> Nursing facilities that conducted baseline employee testing without state support could meet the requirements of the Order if each employee's test for COVID-19 was: (1) conducted on or between May 6, 2020 and July 17, 2020, and (2) performed as a RT-PCR diagnostic test. Facilities that conducted baseline employee testing without state / ONG support must verify that they met the requirements of the Order by submitting a signed letter with a summary of results on the facility's letterhead to CCURT@odh.ohio.gov.</p> <p><i>Staff retesting without state support</i> Facilities retesting staff without state support should begin testing all employees at least once every other week beginning between August 1-14. Nursing facilities that conduct staff retesting without state support can meet the requirements of the Order if each employee of</p>

	<p>the facility is tested at least every other week using a diagnostic test performed via (1) a molecular RT-PCR test, or (2) an antigen test using a rapid point of care (POC) device in receipt of a U.S. Food & Drug Administration’s Emergency Use Authorization for COVID-19 In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>28. How should facilities verify compliance with the requirement to have employees tested for COVID-19 at least once every other week?</p>	<p>All nursing facilities will verify that they meet the requirements of the Order to retest staff at least once every other week by submitting results following each round of testing through the Testing in Nursing Homes Results Survey (link forthcoming.) Responses to the survey will provide summary-level testing results for each round of staff retesting.</p> <p>All facilities should maintain a complete on-going individual level staff COVID-19 test results for compliance purposes. Staff refusals should be documented along with any staff out on extended leave. Upon ODH request, a compiled list of individual-level testing results must be made immediately available in spreadsheet format and must include the date of testing for each individual. Request fulfilments must remove any personal health information that may identify the individuals. Staff compliance will be reviewed through ODH’s survey and certification process.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>29. If staff work at multiple facilities, are they required to be tested at each facility?</p>	<p>No. The nursing facility is required to ensure all staff have been tested per ODH guidelines and should obtain and retain test records for all employees to demonstrate compliance with the Order.</p>
<p>30. What should a facility do if staff refuse to be tested?</p>	<p>We encourage Administrative leadership to educate and inform staff of the requirements and value of ongoing testing.</p> <p>The Order states nursing facilities shall require its employees to be tested in accordance with ODH Guidelines. Staff compliance will be reviewed through ODH’s survey and certification process.</p> <p>Further, each licensed and/or certified nursing facility must follow the infection control requirements set forth in regulations. These include developing a system of identifying and controlling the spread of communicable diseases among staff, residents and volunteers and prohibiting staff with transmissible communicable diseases from being able to pass it to residents.</p> <p>The facility’s medical director is responsible for engaging in the health surveillance of the staff. These regulations may be enforced through the survey process.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>

<p>31. Where can staff get tested for COVID-19 outside of the state-supported process? Will they still need to use the state's universal lab form at the local lab collection center?</p>	<p>A map of testing sites, including private companies and community health centers, has been posted here on the coronavirus.ohio.gov website.</p> <p>Employee tested elsewhere should use the lab form required by the lab performing the testing.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>32. Should new employees be tested for COVID-19?</p>	<p>Yes. As part of the nursing facility's responsibility for infection control, new employees should have their testing specimen collected/swabbed before beginning work at the facility. New employees can begin work while awaiting results if they do not display symptoms.</p> <p>The facility must ensure new staff who begin to work prior to receiving negative test results are treated as if they were exposed to COVID-19 and must properly wear face masks at all times, including during breaks, to avoid exposing other personnel.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>33. How should administrators inform and educate staff about testing at their facility?</p>	<p>Facilities are encouraged to notify all staff, agency/contract personnel, residents, guardians, powers of attorney, sponsors, and/or other supporters of the facility that this testing will be occurring, and medically trained members of the Ohio National Guard will be assisting with the testing. The facility is also encouraged to provide these parties with a brief explanation on the purpose of testing and descriptions of other infection control efforts the facility is undertaking at this time to prevent the spread of COVID-19.</p>
State-Supported Process for Staff Retesting	
<p>34. How is specimen collection/swabbing conducted for staff retesting using the state-supported process?</p>	<p>Appropriately trained clinical staff employed by the nursing home will be responsible for performing specimen collection/swabbing for the retesting of staff.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>35. How will the facility know when to conduct staff retesting specimen collection/swabbing using the state-supported process? How will they know when specimens will be picked-up for transport to the lab?</p>	<p>Each facility will be assigned a specimen collection/swabbing dates and a pick-up dates by the CCURT.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>36. Can facilities change the dates assigned to me by the CCURT for specimen collection/swabbing and pick up?</p>	<p>Barring extenuating circumstances, state-supported testing dates will not be changed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>37. If a nursing home employee is unable to participate in the state-scheduled testing date (24-hour</p>	<p>All nursing home employees need to be tested at least once every two weeks.</p>

<p>window) does that employee need to be tested?</p>	<p>Staff who are unavailable for the facility's testing date must have a specimen collected and sent to a lab (or be tested using a POC device) before they can work again. The nursing facility is responsible for making sure this occurs.</p> <p>Results for employees tested elsewhere should be tracked by the facility and should be included in the facility's response to the Testing in Nursing Homes Results Survey (link forthcoming.)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>38. Who should conduct anterior nares (AN) specimen collection? What is the best way to train and prepare staff on the specimen collection/swabbing process?</p>	<p>Anyone working at the facility can be trained to collect anterior nares specimens. Ideally, staff who conduct specimen collection will have clinical experience.</p> <p>Please make sure staff review the clinical checklist and training video as they prepare to collect specimens/swab.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>39. Why should facilities pay careful attention to the specimen collection and pick-up dates?</p>	<p>To maintain the collected specimens' integrity, facilities need to collect/swab staff during the 24-hour window identified by the CCURT and be prepared for pick-up at their designated time. Working within the assigned time frame will help ensure specimens transported by the state coordinated team remain viable when they arrive at the lab for testing.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>40. How should I prepare to use the specimen collection kits? How do I label the tubes? How should I use the biohazard bags?</p>	<p>If specimen collection tube is leaking prior to collection, discard and do not use for specimen collection.</p> <p>Specimen collection tubes must be labelled with at least 2 patient identifiers: full first and last name and date of birth.</p> <p>Each specimen should be sent with one SARS-CoV-2 specimen submission form. Ensure that identifiers on the specimen collection tube match information listed on paperwork for each specimen.</p> <p>Specimens should be placed in a biohazard bag. Do not package paperwork in the biohazard bag with the specimen. Do not put any ice, ice pack, cool pack, or water in the biohazard bag with the specimen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>41. How should specimens be packed and stored between specimen collection/swabbing and pick-up by a courier?</p>	<p>Please follow the Checklist for COVID-19 Test Specimen Storage & Transport.</p> <p>Packaging:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that specimen collection tubes are completely closed and keep specimens upright after collection and for transport to minimize possibility of leaking.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All specimens from the facility should be packed into a large clear bag (or multiple large bags), utilizing a zip closure. The outside of the bag should be labeled with the facility's information, including their name, address, and state license number (if licensed). <p>Storage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specimens collected using Quest test kits can be kept at room (ambient) temperature until pick-up. Specimens collected using the state-supplied test kits must be refrigerated following collection. <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>42. How can I ensure my specimens are properly transported by the courier?</p>	<p>Check specimens prior to transport to ensure they are packaged appropriately and remain upright for transport.</p> <p>Ensure that coolers being used by the courier have sufficient number of ice/cool packs and the coolers are not overcrowded with specimens.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>43. How will the collected specimens be transported from the facility to the lab?</p>	<p>For at least the first two rounds of testing, the Ohio National Guard will transport specimens from nursing facilities to their assigned lab. Thereafter, either an ONG team, a commercial courier, or commercial shipping company will deliver specimens to the lab for testing. Facilities will be kept abreast of changes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>44. Should staff who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 or had COVID-19 infections be retested to comply with the Order?</p>	<p>Staff who tested positive for COVID-19 and are now asymptomatic do not need to be retested for up to 12 weeks after the initial positive test result. Staff should begin retesting 12 weeks from the date of onset of the prior infection.</p> <p>Staff with a with a prior positive test result for COVID-19 who become symptomatic after recovering from the initial illness should be evaluated and may need to be retested if an alternate illness cannot be identified.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*****</p>
<p>Staff Resulting and Aftercare</p>	
<p>45. Can staff continue working while waiting for testing results?</p>	<p>Asymptomatic personnel may work while awaiting test results. All nursing facilities must comply with ODH Contingency and Crisis Facility Staffing Guidance before considering scheduling staff that have tested positive, been exposed to, or are displaying symptoms of COVID-19.</p> <p>All staff should continue infection control precautions and should wear appropriate PPE, including greater levels of PPE during performance of an aerosol-generating procedure and when in direct contact with infectious secretions.</p>

46. How will notification of test results occur?	All lab results for staff and residents will be sent back to the nursing facility's identified contact person. The lab report will include both positive and negative results for each person tested. Results may be delivered by individual fax, phone, or lab portal. *****
47. If staff or residents test positive for COVID-19, will the facility be required to undergo contact tracing?	Yes, if staff or residents test positive within the facility, the LHD will conduct contact tracing within the facility for staff and residents who may have been exposed to COVID-19.
48. Can nursing facilities employ agency staff to help offset any potential staffing shortages due to COVID-19?	Yes, nursing facilities can use agency staff to supplement staff who are unable to work due to COVID-19.
49. Who should I contact if the facility is facing challenges with staffing, supplies, or other areas of concern due to COVID-19?	<p>The CCURT Bridge Team was created to assist nursing facilities after testing has been completed if the facility identifies a staffing or resource need associated with COVID-19. Facilities, LHDs, local hospital partners, and zone leads can contact the Bridge Team for assistance. Information on how to engage and use the Bridge Team can be found in the CCURT Bridge Team Guidance and Information document.</p> <p>The Bridge Team responds to a facility's identified need in emergency situations. The team will collect relevant information from the nursing facility and others on the ground to assist decision making.</p> <p>Once activated, the Bridge Team will coordinate facility communication with all relevant state agencies, the Emergency Operations Center, health care zones, hospitals in the area, and the local health department to provide immediate assistance.</p>
50. What types of support can be accessed through the Bridge Team?	<p>The Bridge Team classifies provider issues as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing shortages • Evacuation • Supplies, outside of a normal request to the Local Emergency Management Agency (EMA) when lack of a specific supply would endanger the safe operation of the home
51. When can staff who have tested positive, been exposed to, or are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 begin working again?	<p>All nursing facilities must comply with ODH Contingency and Crisis Facility Staffing Guidance before considering scheduling staff that have tested positive, been exposed to, or are displaying symptoms of COVID-19.</p> <p>This guidance is relevant for all health care personnel, as well as potentially exposed staff not directly involved in patient care (i.e., clerical, food & laundry service.)</p>

<p>52. When should residents with COVID-19 symptoms be transferred from a nursing facility to a higher level of care?</p>	<p>Nursing facility residents who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms should continue to receive care in place when clinically appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional detailed guidance regarding caring for individuals with COVID-19 within congregate care settings can be found in the LTSS Toolkit. <p>Clinical guidance to assess an individual's need for hospital care is available in ODH's Nursing Facility Transfer Protocol.</p>
<p>Local and Zone Collaboration and Coordination</p>	
<p>53. What roles will local health departments (LHDs) play in implementing the Order?</p>	<p>Ohio's 113 LHDs are monitoring and preventing the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. As nursing homes implement the Order, LHDs will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with local collaborative efforts, • Follow up on positive employee results and assist with implementation of ODH's Return to Work Guidelines, • Be responsible for following up on positive employee results, based on the employee's LHD of residence, • Assist in planning strategic resident testing for cohorting purposes, and • Conduct contact tracing for residents and staff who test positive for or have been exposed to COVID-19.
<p>54. How can I tell which Zone is assigned to my facility?</p>	<p>Please review the Zone Map and County Listing.</p>
<p>55. Why do nursing facilities have hospital assignments? Where can I review the assignments?</p>	<p>Congregate care settings, hospitals, and local health districts have developed clinical alignment plans to build local, coordinated COVID-19 clinical support. This alignment is fully described in the Protocol to Facilitate Local COVID-19 Collaboration Among Hospitals, Nursing and Other Congregate Care Facilities and Local Health Districts. In support of local collaboration efforts, the Ohio Hospital Association worked with its members to develop a plan to align each nursing facility in Ohio with a hospital partner. The list of matches is available at Ohio's Testing in Nursing Homes website. Please note: some nursing facilities along the state border align with out-of-state hospitals for clinical support.</p> <p>The purpose of clinical alignment is to create a broader community view that extends beyond individual systems to share planning and problem-solving for maximal collective impact. Examples of alignment opportunities include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamlining real-time sharing of information and communications to alert coalition partners to early signs of shortages or surges. • Standardizing processes to improve clinical efficiency and effectiveness while also meeting the unique characteristics of each community.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximizing allocation and use of resources based on broader areas of needs, with an emphasis on testing, personnel, and transportation. • Swiftly conveying information about local situations, including resource allocation. • Organizing for local or community surges. • Integrating efforts with state-level monitoring and rapid response.
State-Supported Process for Baseline Staff Testing	
56. When is staff baseline testing expected to be completed through the state-supported process??	All of Ohio's Nursing Facility staff's baseline tests will be completed by July 31 st , 2020. *****
57. Who is conducting the baseline specimen collection/swabbing for staff testing?	The Ohio National Guard (ONG) is being deployed to provide logistical and operational support for Ohio's collaborative testing effort. ONG teams are comprised of licensed and credentialed medical and health care professionals. These teams will visit each facility to collect and transport specimens for COVID-19 testing.
58. When will my facility be scheduled for staff baseline testing? How will I know when my facility is scheduled?	Facilities will be contacted at least one week prior to staff testing. Please review the ODH Guidelines available at Ohio's Testing in Nursing Homes website for additional details on scheduling baseline testing.
59. Can we pick the time of day the ONG will conduct specimen collection for staff baseline testing? Will the ONG team be able to work around meals, shift changes, therapies, etc.?	The ONG will take resident care and shift changes into consideration when scheduling their arrival. Any concerns or needs should be discussed with the member of the Ohio National Guard who calls to schedule the visit.
60. Have ONG members who are conducting staff baseline specimen collection been tested for COVID-19?	Yes. All ONG members who are entering nursing facilities have been tested for COVID-19 in preparation for this mission.
61. What kind of training have members of the ONG received in preparation for this mission?	ONG members, who are licensed and certified medical professionals, were given two types of training to prepare for staff baseline testing: standard military training process which all members of the Ohio National Guard receive, as well as additional clinical training at OSU's Wexner Medical Center.
62. If staff are on leave or are unavailable when the ONG is on site for baseline testing, are they still required to be tested?	<p>Yes. Nursing facilities will be required to verify staff have been baseline tested if they were unavailable during the originally scheduled time.</p> <p>For baseline testing, within three weeks of the ONG visit to the site, all staff who were not present should be tested, and facilities should verify that they have met the requirements of the Order sending a signed letter on the facility's letterhead, including a summary of results, to CCURT@odh.ohio.gov.</p>

<p>63. Can medical professionals employed by or working with the facility perform or assist in performing baseline specimen collection?</p>	<p>Clinical personnel who are appropriately trained to collect specimens may conduct or assist in swabbing of staff and residents for baseline testing. Test results must still be reported in accordance with the ODH Director’s Journal Entry of March 14, 2020, “Amended Reporting Requirements for 2019- Novel Coronavirus Under Ohio Revised Code 3721.13 and 42 C.F.R 483.10.”</p> <p>Nursing facilities that plan to have their clinical personnel lead or assist in specimen collection and who want to utilize the state’s supplies and/or logistical support must work with the Ohio National Guard team member to coordinate a testing plan.</p>
<p>64. Where in my facility will the staff baseline testing occur?</p>	<p>The National Guard will work with the facility prior to going onsite in order to identify the best area for staff testing.</p>

For additional information, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call the COVID-19 CareLine at 1-800-720-9616.

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

Protect yourself and others from COVID-19 by taking these precautions.

PREVENTION

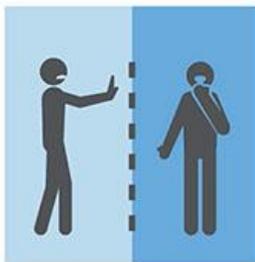
For additional information call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH or visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.



STAY HOME EXCEPT FOR WORK AND OTHER NEEDS



WEAR A FACE COVERING WHEN GOING OUT



PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING OF AT LEAST 6 FEET FROM OTHERS



SHOP AT NON-PEAK HOURS



WASH HANDS OFTEN WITH WATER AND SOAP (20 SECONDS OR LONGER)



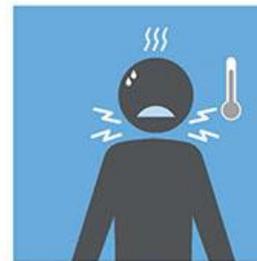
AVOID TOUCHING YOUR EYES, NOSE, OR MOUTH WITH UNWASHED HANDS OR AFTER TOUCHING SURFACES



COVER YOUR MOUTH WITH A TISSUE OR SLEEVE WHEN COUGHING OR SNEEZING



CLEAN AND DISINFECT "HIGH-TOUCH" SURFACES OFTEN



DON'T WORK WHEN SICK



CALL BEFORE VISITING YOUR DOCTOR