



### Amended Director's Order

#### **RE: Director's Amended Order for the Testing of the Residents and Staff of all Nursing Homes**

I, Stephanie McCloud, Director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) pursuant to the authority granted to me in R.C. 3701.13 and R.C. Chapter 3721, to make special orders . . . for preventing the spread of contagious or infectious diseases, hereby **ORDER** the following:

1. Effective April 5, 2021 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 Medicaid, shall perform COVID-19 testing for residents and staff. In order to protect the health and safety of residents and staff, the State has determined this testing shall include, but is not limited to:
  - a. All fully-vaccinated staff shall be tested at least once per week. Fully vaccinated refers to a person who is  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine, per the CDC Public Health Recommendations for Vaccinated Persons.
  - b. All unvaccinated staff shall be tested at least twice per week.
  - c. Regardless of vaccination status, if the county where the facility is located has a COVID-19 county-level, color-coded positivity rate equivalent to "red", as determined by [CMS](#), staff shall be tested at least twice per week.
  - d. Regardless of vaccination status, staff and residents with symptoms or signs of COVID-19 shall be tested.
  - e. Regardless of vaccination status, all staff and residents shall be tested upon identification of a single new case of COVID-19 infection in any staff or resident, unless the exposure to COVID-19 was outside of the facility and they did not enter the facility while potentially infectious. Exposed residents and staff should be retested every 3 days to 7 days until testing identifies no new cases of COVID-19 for a period of 14 days.
2. As determined necessary, additional guidelines may be developed by ODH and/or the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA).
3. Nursing homes may be required to provide additional information to ODH and/or ODA as necessary to address the health of its residents and staff related to COVID-19.
4. Test results shall be reported in accordance with the Journal Entry of March 14, 2020, "Amended Reporting Requirements for 2019- Novel Coronavirus Under Ohio Revised Code 3701.14 and 3701.23."

5. This Order takes into consideration and is intended to be consistent with resident rights in both R.C. 3721.13 and 42 C.F.R. 483.10.

Accordingly, this Order shall replace all prior Orders regarding testing at Ohio's Nursing Homes. This Order shall be effective April 5, 2021 at 12:01 a.m. and remain in full force and effect until the Director of the Ohio Department of Health rescinds or modifies this Order at a sooner time and date.

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Stephanie McCloud  
Director of Health

March 22, 2021  
Date