



Suggested Guidelines for Determining Presumed Positive COVID-19 Resident Status

If it has been determined that there is an outbreak in a facility, and a resident presents with symptoms indicative of COVID-19 (temperature 99.5 or greater, cough, sore throat, or body aches), the resident can be presumed positive.

The designation of presumed positive is based on the clinical assessment performed by physician, medical provider or designee, and attested to by the provider performing the assessment.

Key Testing Points:

- Testing is not required (these residents can be presumed positive).
- Providers should give due consideration for alternative diagnoses (which may or may not co-exist with COVID-19).
- If the provider opts to test through a private lab, clinicians should use their judgment to determine if a patient has signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and whether the patient should be tested. Most patients with confirmed COVID-19 have developed fever and/or symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing).
- Further guidance on evaluating and testing persons for COVID-19 is available on the DPH website: <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov>
- Testing for presumed positives in a facility with an identified outbreak will not be prioritized as urgent through the Delaware Public Health Laboratory.*

If the resident is presumed positive, it is recommended to follow the guidelines below:

- Facility provider personnel are to use clinical judgment, based on the overall abilities of the facility and the physical assessment of the resident, in making decisions related to cohorting presumed positive residents for continued monitoring.
- Presumed positive residents should be cohorted with other presumed positive residents, and not cohorted with known positive residents.
- Isolation precautions are the same for presumed positive as for positive residents. If at all possible, facilities should have a cohort of staff that are assigned to these resident populations and are not caring for other populations during the same shift.

*A facility can utilize their normal testing process as appropriate. If a facility is in need of testing kits (collection swabs), the facility can submit a Resource Request Form for testing kits to OEMS@delaware.gov These testing kits should be sent to a private lab for testing.