



**Monthly COVID-19 Testing for Asymptomatic  
Long-Term Care (LTC) Residents**

DHSS Division of Health Care Quality Emergency Regulations 3201 Skilled and Intermediate Care Nursing Facilities, 3225 Assisted Living Facilities, and 3230 Rest (Residential) Home Regulations contain the following regulations regarding long-term care (LTC) resident testing. All other resident testing should be consistent with Division of Public Health (DPH) guidance for the duration of the public health emergency.

At this time the DPH is requiring LTC facilities to offer COVID-19 testing on a monthly basis to residents who have not previously tested positive to COVID-19. Residents who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 do not need to be included in the monthly testing plan.

LTC facilities must develop policies and procedures to address the various aspects of resident COVID-19 testing. For example, policies and procedures must address aspects such as which PCR testing method will be used to complete the testing, resident consent/refusal, documentation of resident consent/refusal, and address COVID-19 positive test results.

All LTC facilities must have evidence on file that all asymptomatic residents were offered COVID-19 testing on a monthly basis, as recommended by the Division of Public Health. A resident who refuses to be tested for COVID-19 shall be informed by the facility of the health risks involved. The reason for the refusal(s) shall be documented in the resident's medical record monthly.

LTC facilities have two (2) options to test residents that consent to testing:

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| <p><b>Option 1</b></p> | <p><u>Test asymptomatic residents using state resources:</u><br/>A LTC facility may submit a resource request form to the State Health Operations Center for nasal pharyngeal (NP) / oral pharyngeal (OP) / anterior nares swabs. To complete this testing option, the LTC facility must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain a practitioner order for each resident undergoing COVID-19 testing, and</li> <li>• Have a healthcare professional obtain the NP, OP or anterior nares specimen for each resident.</li> </ul> <p>After the specimens have been collected and the lab requisition form completed, the LTC facility can deliver the specimens to their private lab or the Division of Public Health Laboratory* (DPHL) in Smyrna for testing. The results will be sent to the ordering practitioner, not to the LTC facility.<br/>Division of Public Health Laboratory (DPHL)<br/>30 Sunnyside Road, Smyrna, DE 19977<br/>The Deposit / Drop Off Flap is<br/>*LTC facilities that choose to use the DPHL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be signed up to use the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS). LTC facilities that do not sign up for LIMS will not be permitted to use the DPHL to test their asymptomatic residents; and</li> <li>• Will have an assigned date of the week to submit their specimen(s) so as not to overwhelm the lab with multiple facilities' samples. The schedule will be assigned by DPH/SHOC as facilities sign up for this testing option.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Option 2</b></p> | <p><u>Test asymptomatic residents using private resources:</u><br/>A LTC facility can choose to use a private lab and supplies for testing. The LTC facility will be responsible for all associated costs.</p>  |