



**Division of Public Health (DPH) Testing Guidance for Acute Care Facilities, Outpatient Facilities, and Home and Community Based Services (08/29/21)**

***Purpose:** DPH is updating COVID-19 testing guidance for all Acute Care Facilities, Outpatient Facilities, and Home and Community Based Services.*

**Definitions & Acronym**

**Molecular Test:** PCR, LAMP, CRISPR, or other Nucleic Acid Amplification Test that amplifies genetic material for the detection of SARS-CoV-2

**Antigen Test:** rapid, often point-of-care test that detects protein markers for the detection of SARS-CoV-2

**CDC:** Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

**Staff:** those individuals who work for the facility or service on a regular (that is, at least once a week) basis. This also includes vendors (any individual who is not employed by the facility or service but provides direct services to one or more of the facility or service's residents/patients/clients/consumers) and volunteers, who perform duties/services on behalf of the facility or service on a regular basis.

**Fully vaccinated (against COVID-19)** 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's Public Health Recommendations for Vaccinated Persons](#)

**Unvaccinated** refers to a person who does not fit the definition of "fully vaccinated," including people whose vaccination status is not known, for the purposes of this guidance

**Considerations**

- DPH may revise routine testing among facility staff and/or patients as deemed necessary.
- Prior to their start date, all new staff, vendors and volunteers must be tested for COVID-19 within 3 days of their start date. Individuals who are within their 90-day recovery period from COVID-19 and those who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are exempt from this requirement.
- If an individual has previously tested COVID-19 positive and is **within** the 90-day recovery period, testing is **not** recommended. If an individual has previously tested COVID-19 positive and is **beyond** the 90-day recovery period since the onset of symptoms (or if asymptomatic, test collection date), he or she **MUST** be placed back on the schedule for screening testing.
- For detailed instructions on utilizing antigen tests, see DPH [guidance](#).
- Outside of DPH guidance, facilities or services may choose to increase testing frequency for certain staff members (i.e., staff living in a county with a higher positivity rate or staff working in areas with immunocompromised or medically fragile patient populations).



### **Routine Testing for Facility or Service Staff**

Routine testing for fully vaccinated staff is not required. All unvaccinated staff must be tested at minimum once weekly (once every 7 days). Molecular or antigen tests are acceptable to satisfy this requirement.

### **REPORTING**

All providers or testing sites must report data and results for ALL COVID-19 diagnostic and screening testing completed. This includes point-of-care molecular, antigen and antibody testing for each individual tested. This data must be reported daily, within 24 hours of having received the test results, to DPH. Information regarding reporting of tests can be requested by emailing [Dhss\\_Dph\\_CSVreporting@delaware.gov](mailto:Dhss_Dph_CSVreporting@delaware.gov). Additionally, information regarding the reporting of point-of-care testing (including antigen testing), via a reporting portal, can be requested through [DHSS\\_DPH\\_RedcapAccess@delaware.gov](mailto:DHSS_DPH_RedcapAccess@delaware.gov)