

Orange County Health Care Agency SNF COVID-19 Testing Requirements and Resources

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued All Facilities Letters (AFL) 20-53 and 20-55 that outline new requirements for Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) to provide routine and situationally responsive COVID-19 testing of patients and Healthcare Personnel (HCP).

Testing Guidance from CDPH

The essence of these AFLs is that SNFs were required to conduct baseline testing for all SNF residents and HCP by June 30, 2020, and for any facility that does not currently have a positive case, additional testing is recommended as follows:

- In facilities without any positive COVID-19 cases: implement testing of 25 percent of all HCP every 7 days including staff from multiple shifts and facility locations. The testing plan should ensure that 100 percent of facility staff are tested each month.
- Testing new admissions from hospital on admission and at 14 days.

In facilities with any positive COVID-19 case, consult with Orange County Public Health and conduct additional testing per guidance.

Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHA) Public Health has worked closely with SNFs to support testing for outbreaks and has been increasingly stretched to provide testing as demands across multiple settings have increased. To preserve OCHCA Public Health's ability to address outbreaks, and as directed by CDPH, SNFs are required to have a relationship with one or more laboratories to process COVID-19 PCR tests.

Choosing a Lab

To support SNFs in complying with AFL 20-53, OCHCA Public Health has put together suggestions after talking with many labs and facilities. To minimize administrative burden and cost consider:

1. Conducting in-house testing. This reduces the burden to employees related to obtaining testing in the community and to employers related to tracking testing and results.
 - Establish a relationship with a limited number of labs, ideally 1-2 that can process all tests for patients and/or employees.
 - Have the Medical Director create standing orders for patients and employees and have medical staff conduct/observe specimen collection (ideally utilizing nasal swabbing).
 - Follow a regular schedule of weekly testing with a limited number of lab pick-up (or shipping) times per week.
2. Contracting with a lab that:
 - Maximizes third-party (insurance) billing for patients and staff and bills the US Health Resources Service Administration (HRSA) for uninsured patients and staff. A lab that has a comprehensive billing department will eliminate nearly all charges to the SNF.
 - Utilizes CalREDIE for electronic reporting of results to Public Health.
 - Utilize a lab that makes results available to you electronically in a manner that makes record keeping easy, such as with an Excel spreadsheet.
 - Has a turn-around time for results of 1-3 days, and generally within 48 hours.

Laboratory Resources

The following laboratories process FDA-authorized SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests of patients and employees of local SNFs and bill most insurances and the HRSA for uninsured individuals. Each of these labs report they have capacity to provide results in under 72 hours; however, capacity may change as demands shift and equipment and personnel are added. SNFs should contact each lab to verify capacity, turn-around time, and billing details. This list is not exhaustive, nor does it imply an endorsement by the County of Orange. SNFs are encourage to work with labs that best meet their needs, including those that may not be on this list.

Lab	Contact	Email & Phone	Details
Alcala Testing and Analysis Services	Pete Ramdin	peteramdin@alcalalabs.com (619) 846-1574	Bills 3 rd party for patients and employees, including HRSA. No Kaiser billing. Turnaround Time 48-72 hours. San Diego
Avellino Labs	Liz Puwal	Liz.puwal@avellino.com (832) 859-8666	Bills 3 rd parties for patients and employees, including Kaiser and HRSA. Menlo Park
Biocept	Liz Maruca	lmaruca@biocept.com (773) 510-5161	Bills 3 rd party for patients and employees, including HRSA. Turnaround time 2-5 days, currently 24 hours, but do not run samples over the weekend so those run longer. San Diego
Exceltox Lab	Jonathan Pittman	jonathan@exceltox.com (216) 373-1360	Can bill most major insurances and HRSA. Current capacity limited, will have more capacity starting late next week (7/17/2020). Turnaround time 24-48 hours. Irvine
Fulgent Genetics	Rachel Blake	rblake@fulgentgenetics.com (626) 350-0537	Bills 3 rd parties for patients and employees, including Kaiser and HRSA. Public Health has some lab kits available locally. City of Industry
Innovative Bioanalysis	Kevin Noble	kevin.noble@innovativebioanalysis.com (949)338-8325	Bills 3 rd parties for patients and employees. Check limits of billing. Cypress
Quest Diagnostics	Kate Ezra	kate.j.ezra@questdiagnostics.com (818) 737-6330	Bills 3 rd parties for patients and employees including HRSA, not Kaiser. Capacity limited - Significant delays in July. Orange County
UCI Lab	Doug Grudt	dgrudt@hs.uci.edu (714) 981-4673	Bills 3 rd party for patients and employees, including Kaiser and HRSA. Capacity limited but growing. Orange
WestPac Labs	Emily Griffin	egriffin@westpacclab.com (949) 275-8230	Bills 3 rd party. Call for details. Orange County.

Additional Community Testing Resources

Employees may be able to access free testing through their health care provider or through more than 50 different testing locations that include urgent cares, many CVS sites, and the State-funded Optum Testing Sites. Go to www.ohealthinfo.com/covidtest for current information.