



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

June 25, 2020

Dear Nursing Home Administrator:

This memo provides information regarding the second round of nursing home testing. Based on CDC guidance, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) [*Guidance for Relaxation of Restrictions Implemented During the COVID-19 Pandemic - Nursing Homes*](#) of June 18 2020, and the Secretary's [*Amended Directive and Order Regarding Nursing Home Matters*](#) of June 19, 2020, all nursing homes in Maryland are required to continue testing for COVID-19 on a weekly basis.

- Nursing homes with a current COVID-19 outbreak as defined in [*Preparing for and Responding to COVID-19 in Long-term Care and Assisted Living Facilities*](#) testing must include all staff and residents.
- Nursing homes without an active COVID-19 outbreak must test all staff.
- Individuals who have tested positive within eight weeks do not need to be retested if:
 - 1) They have completed isolation based on a time, test, or symptom-based strategy per CDC guidelines, and
 - 2) Have remained asymptomatic for COVID-19 symptoms.

In this second round of testing, MDH is coordinating free testing for all nursing homes through one of two laboratories; either the University of Maryland Medical School (UMB) Lab or CIAN Diagnostics Lab.

Nursing homes will be contacted by one of these two labs to offer testing and collect the information needed to order the tests. To support the ongoing testing efforts, all nursing homes should maintain rosters of their residents and staff and use these rosters in ordering COVID-19 tests from the labs. The labs will communicate any specifics needed for ordering directly to the nursing homes.

If you have lab related issues, you should call the lab. If you have public health questions or concerns, you should call your local health department.

We know you are working hard to protect those in your care. Your efforts have already shown significant results. The number of nursing homes with active outbreaks has been declining due to your efforts. Thank you for all you are doing.

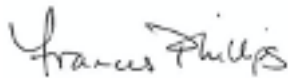
Cited documents are hyperlinked in text above. For access if not viewing electronically, full links below:

Relaxation of Restrictions Implemented During the COVID-19 Pandemic - Nursing Homes
https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Documents/NH%20Relaxation%20of%20Restrictions_6.18.2020_FINAL.pdf

Secretary's Amended Directive and Order Regarding Nursing Home Matters – 19 June 2020
<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Documents/2020.06.19.01%20-%20MDH%20Order%20-%20Amended%20Nursing%20Home%20Matters.pdf>

Preparing for and Responding to COVID-19 in Long Term Care Facilities
https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/IDEHASharedDocuments/Preparing-for-and-Responding-to-COVID-19-in-LTC_update%204_17_20.pdf

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Frances Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Frances B. Phillips
Deputy Secretary
Public Health Services