



Nursing Home Staff and Resident Testing: Summary of State Support for Initial Implementation

June 17, 2020



On June 1, 2020, Governor Lamont issued Executive Order 7UU which, in part, mandates weekly COVID-19 testing for all nursing home facility staff and residents beginning June 14, 2020, and continuing for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency. To support the implementation of this Executive Order, the state has contracted with several organizations (Nursing Home Testing Contractors) to provide resident and staff testing.

As this plan continues to evolve, some of the details contained in this document may change. This includes matters such as the number of contractors being retained to conduct the testing, the duration of the time the state will be leading and funding testing efforts in nursing homes, and the budget and funding sources available for this purpose. Should there be any updates or changes to any of these substantive details, DPH will inform stakeholders such as legislators, municipal leaders, local health directors, the long-term care industry, labor, residents and families, and many others as soon as possible.

Staff Testing: Except where there is coverage under Medicare Part B or Medicare Advantage plans, the state will cover the cost of all nursing home staff testing provided by these contracted organizations during the Initial Implementation Period ending August 31, 2020. No bills will be sent to nursing facility employees.

Resident Testing – Medicaid: During the Initial Implementation Period ending August 31, 2020, the state will pay the cost of testing for all nursing home residents covered by Medicaid.

Resident Testing – Non-Medicaid: Nursing Home Testing Contractors (NHTCs) will collect resident insurance information and bill testing to insurers, including Medicare Part B and Medicare Advantage plans, directly. During the Initial Implementation Period ending August 31, 2020, the state will pay the cost of resident testing that is not reimbursable through a nursing home resident's insurer.

Start Date of Initial Implementation Period – June 14, 2020	NHTCs will begin reaching out to nursing homes to develop testing schedule; testing to begin no later than the week of June 14, 2020
End Date of Initial Implementation Period – August 31, 2020	The state-funded testing for staff and residents will end on August 31, 2020; nursing homes are required to test staff weekly or until testing identifies no new cases of COVID-19 among staff or residents over at least 14 days since the most recent positive result while the Executive Order remains in effect
Nursing Home Testing Contractors	State-funded nursing home resident and staff-testing will be available through the Initial Implementation Period from the following NHTCs: • Yale New Haven Health Services Corp. • Griffin Hospital • Physician One • Prospect Waterbury Hospital • Prospect Eastern Connecticut Health Network • Fair Haven Community Health Center • Trinity Health of New England The state is working to expand the list of NHTCs and will notify nursing homes as additional contractors become available for nursing homes that do not yet have an assigned NHTC
Nursing Home – Contractor Assignments	In an effort to manage the workload, nursing homes will be paired with a NHTC in advance of the Start Date when possible. NHTCs will begin reaching out to nursing homes beginning June 12, 2020
Nursing Home Staff Testing Contractor Services	The NHTC, in coordination with the state, will provide: • Physician orders

	• Collection kits • Specimen collection, which includes transportation to the laboratory • Care coordination for employees who test positive • Management of mandatory reporting requirements
Questions	Any questions, please email: commctr2.dph@ct.gov