

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Acting Commissioner




Ned Lamont
Governor
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HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH

BLAST FAX 2020-87

TO: Nursing Homes, ALSAs and MRCs

FROM: Commissioner Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH 

CC: Deputy Commissioner Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA
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DATE: September 1, 2020

SUBJECT: **Supplemental DPH Guidance on Monthly Surveillance for Nursing Homes, ALSAs, and MRCs Staff Testing**

Facility-wide testing of health care personnel for SARS-CoV-2 can inform infection prevention and control practices to prevent transmission of COVID-19. Pursuant to Executive Order 7AAA, private or municipal Nursing Home facilities (Nursing Homes), Managed Residential Communities (MRCs), and Assisted Living Service Agencies (ALSAs) (individually a "Facility"; collectively "Facilities") must weekly test all staff for COVID-19 who have not previously tested positive for COVID-19 and shall continue such weekly testing for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency or until testing identifies no new cases of COVID-19 among residents or staff over at least 14 days since the most recent positive result, whichever comes first.

The Executive Order also requires such testing to be performed in accordance with the most recent guidance issued by the Department of Public Health, as such guidance may be revised from time to time.



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This Guidance supplements DPH Guidance issued on August 12, 2020, (available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DPH/HAI/COVID19-NH-Guidance_08122020.pdf) and requires Facilities to test all staff at least once per month **after** a Facility has tested all staff weekly pursuant to Executive Order 7AAA and testing identifies no new cases of COVID-19 among residents or staff over at least 14 days since the most recent positive result. Facilities shall test all actively working staff at least once a month according to the following schedule:

1. Private or municipal Nursing Homes, MRCs, and ALSAs with **100 or more staff** shall weekly test for COVID-19 twenty-five percent (25%) of the staff actively working in the Nursing Home, MRC and ALSA and shall continue such testing each week for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency or until there is a new case of COVID-19 among staff or residents, whichever comes first. If a Facility has a new case of COVID-19 among staff or residents, the Facility must resume weekly testing of all staff pursuant to Executive Order 7AAA and weekly resident testing pursuant to DPH Guidance.
2. Private or municipal Nursing Homes, MRCs, and ALSAs with **fewer than 100 staff** shall bi-weekly (every other week) test for COVID-19 fifty percent (50%) of the staff actively working in the Nursing Home, MRC, and ALSA for COVID-19 and shall continue such testing every other week for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency or until there is a new case of COVID-19 among staff or residents, whichever comes first. If a Facility has a new case of COVID-19 among staff or residents, the Facility must resume weekly testing of all staff pursuant to Executive Order 7AAA and weekly resident testing pursuant to DPH Guidance.

Facilities must test for COVID-19 all actively working staff who have not previously tested positive for COVID-19. The Executive Order defines staff as “all personnel working in a private or municipal nursing home facility, managed residential community or assisted living services agency, including, but not limited to, administrators, medical staff, employees, per diem staff, contractors with a regular presence in the facility, private duty patient or resident contracted individuals, dietary, laundry and housekeeping personnel, and volunteers.”

Additional DPH Guidance related to testing may be found at:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/HAI/COVID-19-Healthcare-Guidance>