

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Acting Commissioner



Ned Lamont  
Governor  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Lt. Governor

### HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH

## BLAST FAX 2020-101

**TO:** Nursing Homes, Assisted Living and Managed Residential Communities, Home Health Agencies, Hospice Agencies, and Nursing Home Testing Care Partners

**FROM:** Acting Commissioner Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH

**CC:** Deputy Commissioner Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA  
Adelita Orefice, MPM, JD, CHC, Senior Advisor to the Commissioner  
Barbara Cass, RN., Branch Chief, Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch  
Donna Ortelle, Section Chief, Facility Licensing and Investigations Section  
Vivian Leung, MD, Healthcare Associated Infections Program

**DATE:** October 23, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Care Partner Testing

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The incidence of COVID-19 continues to rise throughout the nation and has begun increasing in various Connecticut communities over the last few weeks. In response, the Department is requiring weekly ***STAFF*** testing for ***ALL*** nursing homes, assisted living services agencies, and managed residential communities across the state. Weekly testing of all staff should commence no later than the week of November 1, 2020 and should continue until further notice.

If a facility is experiencing an outbreak, defined as at least one new facility-onset case of COVID-19 among residents or at least one new case of COVID-19 among staff, the facility should test all staff and residents weekly. If there is no new facility-onset cases of COVID-19 among staff or residents for a period of 14 days, weekly resident testing may stop, however, weekly staff testing shall continue.



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