

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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SARS-CoV-2 Confirmatory Testing at the State Public Health Laboratory for Long Term Care Facilities

As part of the statewide effort to better understand and enhance surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 variants across the state, the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) is offering Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCFs) the option of submitting specimens for PCR confirmation at the CT State Public Health Laboratory (SPHL) when indicated after antigen testing.

SPHL can provide facilities with confirmatory PCR tests with a rapid turnaround time, and specimens positive for SARS-CoV-2 by PCR can then undergo genomic sequencing. Results of SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing will be reported to the submitting facility. *However, note that federal regulations do not authorize SPHL to report variant identification to submitting facilities.* Genomic sequencing results are strictly for public health surveillance purposes.

LTCFs can submit specimens for confirmatory PCR testing to SPHL for the following scenarios:

- **Positive** antigen test results for **asymptomatic** staff and/or residents.
- **Negative** antigen test results for **symptomatic** staff and/or residents.

If confirmatory tests are performed, the confirmatory specimen should be collected as soon as possible after the antigen test, and not longer than 48 hours after the initial antigen test.

LTCFs are responsible for proper labeling, handling, and delivery of specimens to SPHL. A [COVID-19 Clinical Test Requisition Form](#) is required for each specimen. Please check "reside or work in a congregate setting" at the top.

Questions about this process can be directed to the Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance (HAI-AR) Program at DPH.HAIAR@ct.gov or 860-509-7995. Questions about specimen submission can be directed to CT SPHL at 860-920-6689.



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