

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Acting Commissioner




Ned Lamont
Governor
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Lt. Governor

HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH

BLAST FAX 2020-114

TO: All Nursing Homes and Nursing Home Care Partners

FROM: 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

DATE: November 30, 2020

Subject: Point Prevalence Testing for Nursing Homes

As you know, the Department of Public Health has detected elevated rates of COVID-19 positive individuals in Connecticut's communities, along with a rise in COVID positive residents, and staff in nursing homes. During the holiday season, families often visit with their loved ones in long-term care communities, which may place some residents in high-risk situations.

In consideration of the health and safety of all residents and staff in the long-term care setting, the Department is requiring all nursing homes, who are not conducting outbreak testing, to conduct point prevalence testing of all residents once between December 1 through December 15 utilizing the facility's current Care Partner. If a facility is conducting outbreak testing, residents who have not tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days should be tested weekly.

As the state works to limit the spread of COVID-19, this testing and continued infection prevention and control measures may help control outbreaks in facilities.



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