

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Governor
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Lt. Governor

HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH

BLAST FAX 2020-75

TO: Assisted Living Services Agencies

FROM: Commissioner Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH

CC: Deputy Commissioner Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA
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Vivian Leung, MD, Healthcare-Associated Infections & Antimicrobial Resistance
Program Coordinator
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Donna Ortelle, Section Chief, Facility Licensing and Investigations Section

DATE: June 30, 2020

SUBJECT: Assisted Living Services Agency and Staff Testing Tool Kit

Please see the attached.



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**Assisted Living Services Agencies and Managed Residential
Communities
Summary of State Support for Weekly Staff Testing
Toolkit**

June 30, 2020



Assisted Living Services Agencies and Managed Residential Communities Summary of State Support for Weekly Staff Testing



June 30, 2020

On June 1, 2020, Governor Lamont issued [Executive Order 7UU](#) which, in part, mandates weekly COVID-19 testing for all Assisted Living Services Agency (ALSA) staff and Managed Residential Community (MRC) staff beginning the week of June 28, 2020, and continuing for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency. A subsequent order, [Executive Order 7AAA](#) executed on June 17, 2020, directed that weekly testing shall continue 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 occurs first. To support the implementation of these Executive Orders, the state has committed financial support for staff testing through August 31, 2020.

As this plan continues to evolve, some of the details contained in this document may change. This includes matters such as funding sources available for this purpose. Should there be any updates or changes to any of these substantive details, DPH will inform ALSAs and MRCs as well other stakeholders such as legislators, municipal leaders, local health directors, the long-term care industry, labor, residents and families, and others as soon as possible.

I. State Support - The state will provide the following financial support for ALSA and MRC staff and resident testing through August 31, 2020:

ALSA and MRC Staff Testing: The state will reimburse up to \$150.00 per test for any staff not covered by Medicare Part B or a Medicare Advantage plan. Claims for testing of staff covered by Medicare Part B or Medicare Advantage should be submitted to Medicare for reimbursement.

Resident Testing – Medicaid Only: The state will pay the cost of testing for all residents who reside in an MRC as part of a Medicaid waiver demonstration project and who are covered only by Medicaid.

Note: State support does not extend to resident testing for dual eligibles (Medicare and Medicaid), residents with private insurance, or the uninsured. For dual eligibles and residents with private insurance, the MRC will collect resident insurance information and bill resident testing directly to insurers, including Medicare Part B, Medicare Advantage plans and private insurance. If there are residents without any insurance, the MRC has the option to either directly bill the resident or absorb the testing costs.

II. State Reimbursement

Staff: ALSAs and MRCs will be required to request reimbursement for **staff** testing directly from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). On **page 2** are instructions to allow MRCs and ALSAs to register as vendors with the state, which will allow them to request reimbursement from OPM for staff testing. Instructions regarding submitting an invoice for reimbursement will be sent at a later date.

Residents: MRCs will be required to request reimbursement for **resident** testing for residents on Medicaid only following the same process for requesting reimbursement for staff from OPM (see page 2).

III. Implementing Weekly Staff Testing

ALSAs and MRCs must make their own arrangements for testing staff and residents. **Attached** is a list of laboratories and testing contractors (Care Partners) currently providing staff and resident testing in nursing homes. ALSAs and MRCs may wish to reach out to these organizations for testing assistance.

IV. Data Collection

Ordering providers are required to complete case report forms for positive findings to fulfil Reportable Disease Mandates. The case report form is to be completed electronically here: <https://dphsubmissions.ct.gov/>

ALSAs and MRCs are also required to enter aggregate testing data into the Long-Term Care Mutual Aid Plan (LTC-MAP) portal. Addition of data points to the LTC-MAP portal addressing testing denominators (# of individuals tested) and results (# of positive, # of negative, and # inconclusive) is forthcoming.

Questions regarding the state's testing mandate may be submitted to: commctr2.dph@ct.gov

Assisted Living Services Agencies and Managed Residential Communities Guidance Document for COVID-19 Testing Reimbursement

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) will be developing an electronic portal for eligible entities to seek reimbursement for the cost of COVID-19 testing of employees. The first step in this process is setting up eligible entities in the State of Connecticut's financial enterprise system, referred to as Core-CT, in order to process reimbursements. See below for instructions to set up your entity as an approved vendor in the Core-CT system. Additional instructions will be forthcoming to submit requests for reimbursement. Questions regarding accessing the OPM portal and setting up your entity as an approved vendor in the State of Connecticut Core-CT system should be directed to **Manisha Srivastava** at Manisha.Srivastava@ct.gov.

Instructions to Access the OPM Portal and To Set Up as an Approved Vendor in the State of Connecticut's Financial Enterprise System (Core-CT)

Complete and save in a pdf format a W-9 form, Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification, available at this [link](#)

1. Log into the OPM portal using your e-mail address and password
 - Go to https://www.appsvcs.opm.ct.gov/ALSA_MRC/
 - Sign into the portal
 - Username: Enter your email address
 - Temporary Password: ALSA_MRC2020
 - You must change your password on your initial sign-in. Upon logging in for the first time, please look for an automated email with a password reset link.
2. Enter the following information (you will note that OPM populated some of the following information, which you should review and update accordingly).
 - Vendor Name
 - Tax Identification Number (TIN)
 - TIN Type: Select from drop down box either "F" for FEIN or "S" for Social Security Number
 - Business Entity: Select from drop down box
 - Facility Type: Select from drop down box (ALSA, ALSA/MRC, or MRC)
 - Street
 - City
 - State
 - Zip Code
 - Telephone
 - E-Mail Address
3. Upload the completed W-9 form

Resource Kit for Assisted Living Facility COVID-19 Test Collection and Labs

Below is a list of labs and health care providers that have indicated an interest in partnering with Assisted Living Facilities (ALF) to provide COVID-19 test collection and lab services.

Provider Partners – The groups listed below will manage test collection and lab processing.

Physician One

- Contact
 - o Name: Laura Courtney
 - o Email: testing@p1uc.com
 - o Phone: (475) 238-2666
- Requirements
 - o Minimum of 50 tests per onsite testing session with minimum of 25 per hour. Volumes less than this may be assessed an administrative fee.

Hartford Health Care

- Contact
 - o Name: David Santoro
 - o Email: David.Santoro@hhchealth.org
- Requirements Minimum of at least 50 tests site visit (per collection time/slot) and is available to partner with facilities in the Greater Hartford area only.

DOCS Medical Group Primary Care

- Contact
 - o Name: Jasdeep Sidana
 - o Email: jdsidana@docofCT.com
- Requirements
 - o To be established between vendor and ALF

Genesys

- Contact
 - o Name: Suneeta Ahuja
 - o Email: sahuja@gdilabs.com
- Requirements
 - o Minimum number of 80 tests per collection

Laboratory Partners – The groups listed below will process COVID-19 tests, but ALFs must manage sample collection.

Quest

- Contact
 - o Contact: Melissa Baker, Account Manager, Quest Diagnostic
 - Email: Melissa.L.Baker@Questdiagnostics.com
 - Phone: 1-203-435-1712
- Requirements
 - o Vendor will need at least one week to enter into contract with ALF and set up accounts and billing protocols before they can begin testing.
 - o ALF will provide electronic orders through Quest's Quatum ELab portal

Sema4

- Contact
 - o Name: Jason Carpenter and Lori Schilling
 - o Phone: 475-333-6920 (Jason)
405-556-1659 (Lori)
- Requirements
 - o Facility must use of Sema4 Ordering Portal/Bar Codes, and provide us with 48 hour notification of scheduled drop off

**Assisted Living Services Agencies (ALSA) and
Managed Residential Communities (MRC)
Summary of Guidance for Testing**

(See further "COVID-19 Infection Control Guidance for Nursing Homes [Updated Guidance – June 22, 2020])

ALSA/MRC **resident** testing guidance:

- There is no mandate for resident testing.
- Residents who become ill should be evaluated and tested if clinical evaluation suggests possible COVID-19.

For ALSA/MRC with a memory care unit **resident** testing guidance:

DPH recommends following Nursing Home guidance for testing of asymptomatic residents in the setting of an outbreak (any facility-onset case within the past 28 days):

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/nursing-homes-testing.html>

- Test all residents, who were not previously positive, weekly until 2 consecutive weekly rounds of no new positives
- Resident testing can pause when there have been no newly positive residents or staff for 14 days.
- Resident testing should recommence if a staff member tests positive or if any staff or resident develops COVID-19 infection

ALSA/MRC **staff** testing is mandated by the Governor's Executive Order [7AAA](#):

- All ALSA and MRCs are required to test all staff, who were not previously positive on a weekly basis beginning June 28, 2020.
- Any ALSA and MRC that hasn't had a positive case in greater than 14 days, is still mandated to begin testing on June 28, 2020 per the executive order.
- Testing may pause if the facility has received 2 consecutive weekly rounds of negative results **AND** there have not been any new cases among staff or residents in the past 14 days.

The Governor's 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."

Pertinent information from the Governor's Executive Order 7AAA:

Mandatory COVID-19 Testing of Managed Residential Community Staff. Section 19a-694 of the Connecticut General Statutes is hereby modified to require that a managed residential community, beginning not later than the week starting June 28, 2020, shall weekly test members of the managed residential community 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 occurs first. All such testing shall 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. Weekly testing of such managed residential community staff shall restart if a new case of managed residential community-onset COVID-19 is identified in a resident or staff member of such managed residential community.

Mandatory COVID-19 Testing of Assisted Living Services Agency Staff. Section 19a-699(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes is hereby modified to require that an assisted living services agency, beginning not later than the week starting June 28, 2020, shall weekly test members of the assisted living services agency 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 clients or staff over at least 14 days since the most recent positive result, whichever occurs first.** All such testing shall 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. Weekly testing of such assisted living services agency staff shall restart if a new case of assisted living services agency-onset COVID-19 is identified in a client or staff member of such assisted living services agency.

Recommendations from CDC for ALSA/MRCs is can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/assisted-living.html>

“Depending on the level of care and services provided in the ALSA, recommendations in the following guidance documents may also apply:

- [Interim Additional Guidance for Infection Prevention and Control for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 in Nursing Homes](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in Retirement Communities and Independent Living Facilities](#)”