

Member Q&A from Department of Health on Execution of EO 59AER 20-2 Mandatory Testing of ALF Staff

1. Will the testing be scheduled in advance?

- **ANSWER:** Yes

2. Who is setting up the test dates and times?

- **ANSWER:** Schedules are being set by both the local Department of Health and state level Department of Health.

3. What type of test is being used? (Nasal, throat, anti-body or rapid test?)

- **ANSWER:** At present, the LTC testing teams are using nasopharyngeal swabs. There have been some locations that specifically requested their residents be tested with oropharyngeal swabs and those specific requests are accommodated whenever possible. (Reasoning behind why the nasopharyngeal test are being used is because that test is considered the “Gold Standard” and proved the best opportunity to capture the viral cells.)

4. What are the qualifications of the staff conducting the test?

- **ANSWER:** The test will be conducted by licensed nurses and paramedics.

5. Will the team be arriving in full PPE?

- **ANSWER:** Yes

6. Will the team have been to another facility prior to?

- **ANSWER:** Depending on the time of day, yes. They could possibly have been at another facility. If possible, they could set up a drive through at communities so staff do not have to get of cars and minimize time inside the community.

7. Do the facilities need a physician order for each resident and staff member?

- **ANSWER:** No need for doctor orders. The Department of Health has obtained the orders needed.

8. Is there a consent form that needs to be signed by residents, their POA, and staff?

- **ANSWER:** No written consent is required, however, if it your company policy/practice to obtain for staff or residents, you may do so.

9. What happens with employees with history of nose surgeries and related issues?

- **ANSWER:** The type of swab being used now are ultra-thin and not causing some of the discomfort reported earlier. Unless the employee has a doctor's order to not enter the nasal cavity or proof of recent nasal surgery they will be expected to participate. These cases will be reviewed at time of scheduling if noted or when team arrives on site.

10. How long will it be before all the results are received?

- **ANSWER:** Depends on time of day obtained and when shipped to lab as they all are being shipped at this time. Goal is that within 48 hours of the labs receipt the employee will be notified.
 - Employees that list cell numbers will get a text once their result is processed. It is their responsibility to keep their employer updated.
 - The results will get uploaded nightly to state DOH who will then send to the local DOH who will then sort and notify the provider if positive.