



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

Date June 10, 2021

DAL: DAL #21-13
COVID-19 Testing Requirements

Dear Adult Care Facility Operators and Administrators:

Routine COVID-19 Testing of Adult Care Facility Staff

Effective immediately, operators and administrators of all adult care facilities (ACFs) are required to test or arrange for the routine testing for COVID-19 of all personnel who have not been fully vaccinated (as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), including employees, contract staff, medical staff, operators and administrators, for COVID-19 once per week. **Fully vaccinated personnel no longer require routine once-weekly testing.** Note that it remains the responsibility of the ACF to comply with all applicable regulations, Executive Orders, and State guidance and directives, including but not limited to regulatory requirements under Title 18 NYCRR regarding supervision of personnel as well as vaccination requirements at 10 NYCRR 66-4.3. As such, ACFs are responsible to determine which personnel qualify as fully vaccinated before foregoing routine testing.

In accordance with existing reporting protocols and mechanisms, any positive test result must be reported to the Department of Health by 1:00 p.m. of the day following receipt of such test results. Additionally, regardless of the frequency of testing being performed or the facility's COVID-19 status, the ACF must continue to screen all staff (each shift), each resident (daily), and all persons entering the ACF, such as vendors, volunteers, and visitors, for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Whenever a potential outbreak is identified, an ACF must contact its local health department to ensure implementation of appropriate infection control recommendations.

Testing of Staff and Residents with COVID-19 Signs or Symptoms

When prioritizing individuals to be tested, adult care facilities (ACFs) should first prioritize those individuals exhibiting signs and symptoms of COVID-19, regardless of the vaccination status of such individual, then perform testing in accordance with State or local health department guidance.

ACF staff members with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 should immediately obtain a diagnostic test for SARS-CoV-2, irrespective of the staff member's vaccination status. Staff members suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 must be furloughed and must follow the applicable NYSDOH [return to work requirements](#) (Part C). Staff who do not test positive for COVID-19 but are symptomatic should follow the ACF's policies to determine when they may safely return to work. ACFs are reminded that the facility must not allow any individual to work when infected with a communicable disease that might endanger the health of residents (see 18 NYCRR 487.9[a][11] [adult homes]; 18 NYCRR 488.9[a][8] [enriched housing programs]).

Residents who have signs or symptoms of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status, **must be tested for SARS-CoV-2 immediately**. During the time in which test results are pending, the local health department must be contacted, and such residents should be placed on transmission-based precautions. Upon receipt of test results, the ACF must take the appropriate measures in accordance with State or local health department guidance.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and efforts to protect the health and safety of your residents and staff. If you have further questions regarding this correspondence, please contact the Division of Adult Care Facility and Assisted Living Surveillance at covidadultcareinfo@health.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

Heidi L. Hayes, Acting Director
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