**MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 NURSING HOME, REST HOME, AND ALR MOBILE TESTING PROGRAM**

**REVISED GUIDANCE: APRIL 13, 2020**

Older adults living in congregate care settings, such as nursing homes, rest homes and assisted living residences are vulnerable to COVID-19. This program allows for safe, onsite sample collection by trained personnel from the Massachusetts National Guard or a state-contracted EMS provider. Nursing homes, Rest homes, and ALRs (Facilities) in Massachusetts are eligible for the program. **All residents and employees, symptomatic or asymptomatic, are eligible to be tested.** To participate:

**Healthcare personnel at a facility identify the need to test the facility due to COVID-19 infection concerns.**

* You MUST have orders from a licensed provider for all tests. For facilities with ordering providers on-site (medical directors), the medical director or licensed independent provider on-call may serve as the ordering provider. For facilities with multiple on-site providers, ensure you have orders for all residents.
* For facilities without ordering providers associated with the facility, facility personnel should obtain orders from individuals’ providers.
* **It is recommended that you order tests for all residents and staff, NOT just symptomatic individuals.**
* Due to supply constraints at this point, we can only support **one-time testing of the full facility to provide a baseline.**

**Facility Administrator or designee calls mobile testing hotline at** **617-366-2350****. The hotline is staffed 7 days a week from 8AM-4PM ET.**

**Process to schedule in-facility testing by MA National Guard or Fallon Emergency Medical Service**

* **Ordering:** Request (via the mobile testing hotline) for personnel to come to your facility to collect patient specimens.
* **Complete ALL paperwork prior to arrival:** For each resident being tested, you must print one requisition form, complete all fields, and attach to the sample. It is extremely important that this information is filled-out in full for proper epidemiological tracking and patient reporting. Ensure the full name of the facility, address, zip code and phone number are on every form. Incompletely labeled samples may be rejected for testing. If paperwork is incomplete when testing team arrives, testing may not be completed.
* **Testing team arrives:** If MA National Guard is servicing your facility, you will be notified both the evening before and the morning of, when MANG is coming the next day. If Fallon is servicing your facility, you will receive a phone call the day before they arrive, letting you know when they will arrive for testing. We cannot take requests for either set of personnel.
	+ Personnel will arrive at the Facility entrance in PPE.Please ensure security is aware of their visit.
* Personnel will doff PPE before leaving the building.A red PPE disposal container must be provided at the entrance of the building to allow the personnel to dispose of their PPE.
* **Await test results.** Tests requested via this program will be paid for by the state. The results will be communicated back with the ordering provider listed on the requisition form.

**WHAT TO DO WHILE AWAITING RESULTS:**

**Symptomatic individuals should be presumed positive while awaiting test results and should be isolated.** Please consult with your local Board of Health for protocols on isolation and/or reach out to the DPH Epidemiology Line (24/7): 617-983-6800.

Negative results, especially in asymptomatic individuals, should be interpreted with caution, as they merely represent a point in time and individuals who test negative could still be within the incubation period of disease. Further, individuals potentially exposed but testing negative should still be closely monitored and quarantined as appropriate, if still within 14 days of exposure.

Employees who test positive, even while asymptomatic, should not be returning to work until a minimum of 7 days following the positive result.

**Additionally, please visit DPH’s website that provides up-to-date information on COVID-19 in Massachusetts: https://www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus.**