# COVID-19 TESTING IN LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

NOVEMBER 10, 2020

# Welcome

| Michigan Long-Term Care Facility COVID-19 Testing Team Members and Presenters | |
|---|---|
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# Agenda
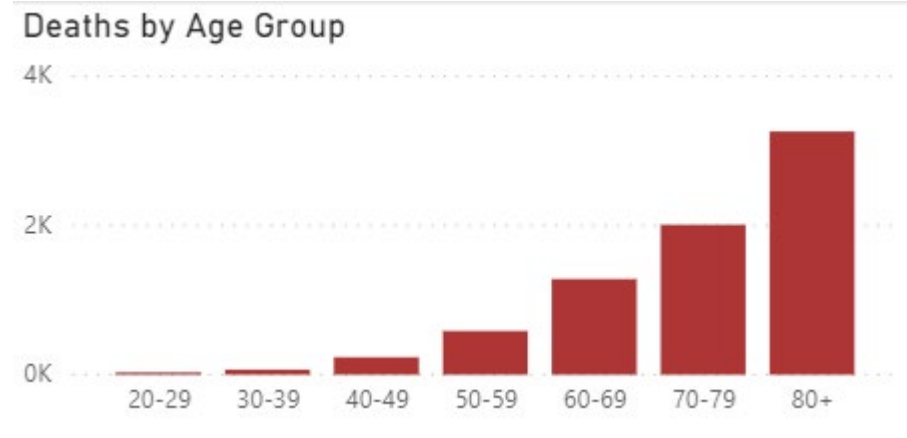
1. Overview of order & implementation process

2. Antigen test information

   a. Staff training

   b. Ordering clinician

   c. CLIA waiver

3. CLIA waiver application and process

4. Discussion

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# Overview

- <u>Who</u>: all SNFs, all HFAs, AFCs licensed for 13+ beds

- <u>What</u>: required, regular COVID-19 testing of staff and residents

- <u>When</u>: immediately for SNFs, by 11/18 for HFAs, by 11/24 for some requirements and by 12/2 for others for AFCs

- <u>Where</u>: testing completed on-site at each facility, likely by facility staff

- <u>Why</u>: to identify COVID-19 cases and prevent outbreaks

- <u>How</u>: MDHHS to ship rapid point of care tests to all facilities

# Background

- COVID-19 risks in long-term care:

  - High risk of outbreaks

  - High risk of mortality in elderly adults

- MDHHS epidemic order requires regular testing in:

  - All skilled nursing facilities

  - All homes for the aged

  - Adult foster care facilities licensed to care for 13 or more individuals*



Data from michigan.gov/coronavirus as of 11/5

*Large and congregate facilities and county infirmaries

# Required Testing

MDHHS epidemic order requires the following testing*:

1. Initial testing of all residents and staff**;

2. Testing any resident or staff member with symptoms of COVID-19 or suspected exposure;

3. Weekly testing of all residents and staff in facilities with any positive cases among residents or staff, until 14 days after the last new positive;

4. Weekly testing of all staff in counties of risk levels A through E on the MI Safe Start Map;

5. Testing of all new or returning residents during intake unless tested in the 72 hours prior to intake;

6. Testing of all newly hired staff on their start date or in the 72 hours prior to start date;

7. Testing of visitors in line with visitation epidemic order

*People who have recovered from COVID-19 in the past 3 months and have no symptoms are exempted from testing
**Facilities that have already conducted initial testing have completed this requirement

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6

# Checking Risk Level on MI Safe Start Map

# Timeline: When Must Testing Begin

- SNFs: immediately

- HFAs: November 18

- AFCs: November 24 for testing:

  - individuals with symptoms or exposure,

  - weekly in facilities with positives,

  - new residents or staff, and

  - any resident leaving the facility for Thanksgiving – before departure & on return

- AFCs: December 2 for:

  - initial testing of all residents and staff;

  - weekly staff testing

# SNFs: State and Federal Requirements

- Both the state and federal governments have COVID-19 testing requirements for SNF staff

- SNFs must comply with both; state order is minimum bar but federal requirements may require more testing above and beyond

- In practice, that means:

    - In counties of risk levels A through E on the MI Safe Start Map: weekly staff testing under state order, even if federal requirement is monthly

    - In counties with percent positivity over 10 percent: twice weekly staff testing to meet federal requirements

    - In counties with the risk level of low on the MI Safe Start Map: no weekly staff testing under state order, only test in accordance with federal requirements

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# Implementation

- Testing basics: two types of diagnostic tests can meet these requirements:

  - PCR: highly sensitive test, samples sent to laboratory for processing

  - Antigen: less sensitive test, performed at point of care

- **MDHHS is shipping antigen tests to all facilities affected by this order. Make refill requests here**

| Facilities | Type of Test | Details |
| --- | --- | --- |
| SNFs that received BD kits from federal government | BD | Rapid point of care test, requires BD machine to analyze |
| All other SNFs | Binax | Card-based point of care test, no additional equipment needed |
| All HFAs and AFCs | | |

# Binax Antigen Test Details

- 15-minute card-based test; can be performed without special equipment, by direct care staff

- Facilities must do three things to use these tests:

  1. <u>Train staff</u>: staff must complete two online training videos [here](#) and [here](#)
     - National Guard offering on-site training to interested facilities

  2. <u>Find a medical provider to order the test</u>: can be any type of nurse, PA, pharmacist, or physician; facilities without a medical provider should contact local health department

  3. <u>Get a CLIA waiver</u>: CLIA regulates lab testing; getting a waiver requires a 5-page application sent to LARA
     - We will walk through the application and process today

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# Confirming Antigen Results with PCR Test

- Because they are less sensitive, Binax antigen tests sometimes need to be confirmed by more sensitive PCR tests:

  - When someone with symptoms tests negative or

  - When someone without symptoms tests positive

- **MDHHS is sending all HFAs and AFCs a small number of saliva PCR tests to keep on hand and use when antigen tests need to be confirmed**

- Saliva tests can be self-collected by patients or collected by direct care staff with training; MDHHS's testing vendor Honu will provide training and instructions

# Reporting Results

- All tests conducted for COVID-19 must be reported to MDHHS. [Required data elements](#) can be found in MDHHS's antigen FAQ.

- <u>SNFs</u>: per CMS guidance, should report antigen test results to CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). Data reported here will be shared state and local health departments.

- <u>HFAs and AFCs</u>: can complete [this online reporting form](#).

# Other Testing Options and Reimbursement

- Facilities can continue to [request MDHHS assistance](#) with urgent or unmet testing needs (e.g., if cases arise in facility before CLIA waiver complete or when test kits unavailable)

- Facilities also have the option of completing PCR testing, or contracting with a provider to conduct testing, and seeking MDHHS reimbursement after the fact

- MDHHS offers reimbursement to facilities for test costs not covered by insurance or provided by the state
    - Sample collection of antigen tests
    - PCR tests conducted without using state supplies
    - [Details available here](#)

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# CLIA Waiver Application Process

- To get a CLIA waiver, facilities should complete this application
  - Email completed applications to:

    LARA-BCHS-DHHS-COW-TESTING-APPLICATION@michigan.gov

- Cost: $180 for two years

- Questions about process can be addressed to: MDHHS-Binaxnowrequest@michigan.gov

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# Next Steps

| Item | Due Date: SNFs | Due Date: HFAs | Due Date: AFCs | How To |
|------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------|
| Train staff to use antigen tests | Now | 11/18 | 11/24 | Complete two online training videos here and here |
| Find medical provider to order test | Now | 11/18 | 11/24 | Use medical providers on-site or affiliated – or ask local health department for help |
| Get CLIA waiver | Before using tests; allow time for processing | | | Complete this application and email to LARA-BCHS-DHHS-COW-TESTING-APPLICATION@michigan.gov |

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# Resources

- [October 28, 2020 Epidemic Order](#)
  - [Visitation Infographic](#)

- [October 28, 2020 COVID-19 Testing Implementation Memo](#)

- [Guide to Using Antigen Tests](#)

- [CLIA Waiver Application](#)

- Contacts:
  - MSA contact: [MDHHS-MSA-COVID19@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-MSA-COVID19@michigan.gov)

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# DISCUSSION