

COVID-19 Test Kits for Skilled Nursing Facilities

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

1/26/2021

To: Skilled Nursing Facility Directors

Purpose: Update – Essential COVID-19 Plus Testing Strategy Information

UPDATE: *We have updated our guidance for the COVID-19 Plus Testing strategy to increase the number of test kits facility should have on hand to ten (10) test kits for each facility instead of five (5). All of the instructions below have not changed from the 9/22/20 letter.*

- Actively screen all residents and HCW for COVID-19 and/or influenza symptoms each day and test any persons who are symptomatic (PUIs) using **COVID-19 PLUS test kits** provided by Public Health Laboratory (PHL)
- Always keep **ten (10) COVID-19 PLUS Test Kits** in a refrigerator
- When laboratory testing is indicated for PUIs residents (or staff, if present at the facility) **use COVID-19 PLUS kits to test ASAP** following these steps:
 1. Call the PHD at (408) 970-2900. This is to alert about PUIs and testing you will do or have done. **Call as soon as possible, but it is not required before your decision to test using COVID-19 PLUS**
 2. **Collect specimens** on all persons eligible for testing (Attachment)
 3. **Label specimen(s)** clearly and completely
 4. **Keep specimen(s) in refrigerator/cooler** before/for transfer to PHL
- **Drop off the specimen(s)** from PUIs to PHL between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm at 2220 Moorpark 2nd Floor San Jose CA 95128
- When dropping off kits, **Please Remind PHL to Replenish** you with equal number of kits, so that you always have 10 kits in the refrigerator
- PHL will Fax all test results to you. Upon receipt, **Take Action Promptly** with infection control actions (medical evaluation, cohorting, isolation, etc.)
- If response driven testing (RDT) is indicated, in collaboration with PHD, **organize 1st round of RDT collection using COVID-19 PLUS Test Kits**
- A PHN from the PHD will be assigned to your facility to support you in monitoring the RDT results and follow up steps