
DOH/DHS Issue Clarification on COVID-19 Testing Long-Term Care Facilities

On June 26, 2020, the Department of Health (DOH) issued an expanded testing order covering the Department of Human Services' (DHS) licensed personal care homes, assisted living residences, and intermediate care facilities. The order, which took effect July 1, requires baseline testing of residents and staff be completed before August 31. This timeline allows facilities to do this universal testing after health systems participating in the Regional Response Health Collaboration Program are selected, so facilities that need clinical support with testing have this network available. It is expected these Health Collaboration Programs will be up and running in a few weeks and will aid programs to complete the required testing.

If your organization has started this testing following the universal testing guidance previously issued by DOH, *all results should be reported to DHS*. These testing standards are not required for CRR, LTSR, or RTF-A residential programs as confirmed by the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services on July 3. A copy of the order, requirements, and frequently asked questions are available [here](#).