
Universal Testing in Long-Term Care Facilities During the COVID-19 Response: FAQs

The Department of Health has released a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document regarding Universal Testing in Long-Term Care Facilities During the COVID-19 response. Universal testing is not a mandate in Pennsylvania but is a test-based strategy to aid in the prevention of virus transmission.

The document addresses several questions including:

- In which facilities would universal testing be most valuable?
- What steps should our facility take if we are interested in pursuing universal testing?
- Do we need physician orders for tests?
- What if we want to conduct universal testing but we do not have the resources, either due to a lack of PPE or a lack of supplies to conduct testing?
- Is federal funding in place to pay for the testing and needed retesting of both residents and staff?

For additional information sources:

- Testing for Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Nursing Homes: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/nursing-homes-testing.html>
- Key Strategies for Long-Term Care Facilities: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care-strategies.html>
- Strategies to Optimize the Supply of PPE and Equipment: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>
- Additional Pennsylvania Health Advisories on COVID-19 can be found at: <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/prep/PA-HAN/Pages/2020-HAN.aspx>