Current as of June 8, 2020

Testing at Independent Senior Housing: Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What should I do if I have an outbreak of COVID-19 in my location?*

Please contact the DPH Epidemiology line (617-983-6800).

2. *Who should be tested?*

Individuals who develop symptoms of COVID-19, **OR** who are a **close contact of someone who has tested positive** for COVID-19, should be tested. Symptoms may include:

- Fever, chills or shaking chills

- Signs of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, lowered oxygen saturation)

- Fatigue, sore throat, headache, body aches/myalgia, or new loss of sense of taste or smell

- Other less common symptoms can include gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g. nausea, vomiting, diarrhea), rash, and inflammatory conditions such as "COVID toes"

- In older or chronically ill individuals, symptoms of COVID-19 may be subtle such as alterations in mental status or in blood glucose control

Who is a close contact?

You are a close contact of a COVID-19 positive person if:

- You were within 6 feet of them, and

- For at least 10-15 minutes, and

- While they were symptomatic **OR** within the 48 hours before their symptom onset

The Commonwealth does not recommend universal testing for situations in which all individuals on-site are asymptomatic and with no known cases.

3. *How can an individual get tested at a test site?*

- You can visit this [interactive testing map](#) to find a site near you.

- The list of test sites [is also available here.](#) The list changes regularly, so check in for periodic updates.

- Please call the test site prior to arrival. Sites may require pre-screening, a referral and/or an appointment.

4. How can residents test themselves at home?

Options for at-home testing			
Provider	**Contact**	**Sample type**	**Collection details**
Vault	https://www.vaulthealth.com/covid/corporate	Saliva	Self-collection with telehealth supervision
1Health	https://1health.io/	Saliva	Self-collection
LabCorp	https://www.pixel.labcorp.com/covid-19	Nasal swab	Self-collection

5. I would like on-site testing, is there an associated cost?

- COVID-19 testing for **symptomatic individuals** and **close contacts** should be covered by insurance. Insurance coverage for **on-site mobile specimen collection performed by EMS or a provider** may vary:

    – For MassHealth members, mobile testing is covered. For questions email: Carson.Yates@mass.gov

    – For non-MassHealth members (including Medicare), there may be an associated cost. You should ask your testing provider or your insurance provider about their policies before arranging testing.

- Insurance is unlikely to pay for the testing of an **asymptomatic individual with no known contact with COVID-19. This type of testing is generally paid for privately**. Ask the testing provider and your insurance company about their policies before arranging testing.

6. How can I arrange on-site testing for my independent senior housing?

- **Identify and contact a testing partner who will come to your site:**

    – A **Community Health Center** near you

    – **Fallon EMS** - please call 617-745-9999 or visit their website

    – **Brewster Ambulance** - please call Kelly Magyar at 617-983-1000 or email kmagyar@brewsterambulance.com

    – **Orig3n** – to request on-site testing or to order test kits please visit their website

- **PhysicianOne Urgent Care** – please call Allison Egan at 617-610-4286 or email aegan@p1uc.com

- **When choosing a testing provider, you should inquire about the sample collection method offered** (e.g., anterior nasal swabs may be more comfortable than nasopharyngeal swabs, elderly residents may not be able to produce necessary saliva volumes for saliva-based testing, etc.). Please discuss options with the potential testing provider.

- **Plan for post-test care:** Before arranging testing, please review current guidance on triaging individuals based on their test results.

7. *Where can I go to find more information?*

There is a dedicated [web page](#) about testing resources in the Commonwealth.

If you are a testing provider and would like to be added to this list of testing options, please complete [this form](#). This list will be updated regularly.