



Recommendation for COVID-19 Testing of Hospital to Nursing Facility Transfers

April 20, 2020

On April 13, the Iowa Department of Public Health released [Interim Guidance for New Admissions or Return of Residents to Long-term Care Facilities](#) which states that “the Iowa State Hygienic Laboratory will accept specimens for patients being discharged from a hospital to a nursing facility, but test results should not delay timing and completion of an otherwise clinically appropriate discharge.”

While a negative test does not eliminate the need for isolation precautions, a confirmed, positive COVID-19 test does have important implications related to cohorting and designated staffing to reduce the risk of transmission to residents with unknown status and healthy, asymptomatic residents. As such, the Iowa Health Care Association and LeadingAge Iowa recommend that long-term care providers request COVID-19 testing of any patient being discharged from the hospital and transferred to a nursing facility.