

Routine Testing for Staff

Every Other Week – Check [CMS Data Website](#) for County COVID-19 Activity. The % of positivity dictates the frequency of routine testing. (see Table 1)

Table 1

County COVID-19 Activity	County Positivity Rate in the past week	Minimum Testing Frequency
Low	<5%	Once a month
Medium	5% - 10%	Once a week*
High	>10%	Twice a week*

If the county % remains the same when checked again, there is **no** change to the routine testing frequency.

If the county % **increases** when checked again, the frequency of testing must **increase** to the frequency outlined in Table 1, as applicable.

If the county % **decreases** when checked again, the frequency of testing will remain the **same** until the county positivity rate has been at the lower activity level for at least two weeks.

Triggered Testing for Staff and Residents

Daily – Screen staff at the beginning and end of each shift for COVID-19 symptoms; and screen residents each shift for COVID-19 symptoms (or at least daily in Phase 3 of reopening guidance).

If a staff or resident is identified as symptomatic during daily screening, the individual must be tested.

If the results are **negative** – **no** additional action is required for triggered testing. Continue with routine testing as dictated by county prevalence.

If the results are **positive** – outbreak testing must be initiated for all residents and staff. The residents and staff must be tested every 3-7 days until 14 days have passed since the last positive test result.

References

CMS. (2020, Aug. 26). QSO-20-38-NH. <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-38-nh.pdf>

Data.CMS.gov. (2020 Aug. 16). COVID-19 Nursing Home Data. Retrieved Sept. 2, 2020. <https://data.cms.gov/stories/s/COVID-19-Nursing-Home-Data/bkwz-xpvg>

Federal Register. (2020, Sept. 2). Medicare and Medicaid Programs, Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA), and Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Additional Policy and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-09-02/pdf/2020-19150.pdf>