

GREATER NEW YORK HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ASSOCIATION

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Memo 20-36

To: Administrator, DNS, Medical Director, Infection Preventionist and QA Committee

From: Mary Gracey-White RN, Director of Regulatory Compliance

Date: October 20, 2020

Re: Point of Care Antigen Testing for SARs-COV-2 Infection

Please be advised that NYSDOH has released guidance regarding Point of Care (POC) Antigen Testing for SARs-COV-2 infection. Please review the attached newly released guidance and FAQs. See pages 7-10 for specifics relating to Skilled Nursing Facilities. Highlights include:

- Facilities can use POC Antigen testing for residents, staff, and visitors in accordance with federal approval outlined in CMS 20-38. There are specific instances where confirmatory PCR testing is necessary outlined below and detailed in the algorithm by NYSDOH that is in alignment with CDC guidance.
- All results are reportable to the NYS ECLRS system and facilities require CLIA approval. Pursuant to the current Executive Order 202.61 results must be reported within 3 hours.
- Contact tracing should be initiated for confirmed positive SARs-COV-2 infections.
- Outbreak response is triggered by 1 nursing home onset SARS-COV-2 infection Staff Member or Resident.
- The need to differentiate symptomatic residents and asymptomatic residents and the testing requirements and need for PCR follow up test if indicated.
- Early identification and implementation of symptomatic residents initiating Transmission Based Precautions pending test results.
- Refer to the Nursing Home and Adult Care Facilities Algorithm.

Symptomatic Individual	Asymptomatic Individual
POC TEST IS POSITIVE: • Initiate outbreak actions • Requires isolation POC TEST NEGATIVE • Requires isolation • Need to confirm with PCR test within 48 hours	POC TEST IN <u>FACILITY WITH AN OUTBREAK</u> POC TEST IS POSITIVE: • Initiate outbreak actions • Requires isolation POC TEST NEGATIVE: • Follow up PCR not required • Continue serial testing POC TEST IN <u>FACILITY WITHOUT AN OUTBREAK</u> POC TEST IS POSITIVE: • Requires a PCR test to confirm within 48 hours • Requires isolation pending the PCR test • If PCR is negative isolation can be discontinued • If PCR is positive initiate outbreak precautions and continue isolation