



## Recommended Guidelines for Outbreak Testing for Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities

1. After each positive COVID-19 test is identified, the facility should identify individuals who have been exposed. Test all residents and personnel who are symptomatic or who have had close contact to the positive case. ([Click here to view the Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations to Prevent SARS-CoV-2 Spread in Nursing Homes](#)).
  - Facilities can meet the testing requirement through the use of rapid point-of-care (POC) diagnostic testing devices or through an arrangement with an offsite lab.
2. Submit specimens of exposed or symptomatic Residents or Staff to your contracted lab (see details below).
  - When using POC tests, provide results via the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) [COVID-19 Reporting Results Portal](#).
  - When using lab-performed PCR tests, complete your contracted lab's requisition form for each specimen as applicable.
    - RIDOH will automatically receive lab-processed test results ordered by your facility.
    - RIDOH needs the facility to add required case information (such as whether the person was symptomatic, masked, immunocompromised, etc.) to the result via the [COVID-19 Reporting Results Portal](#).
3. Use of the RIDOH State Health Laboratories (SHL) requires pre-approval from the RIDOH long-term care facilities (LTCF) team. No specimen should be sent to SHL without PRIOR APPROVAL. If approved by the Center for COVID-19 Epidemiology, SHL will be available to assist with sample processing as needed.
  - When approved, and the use of SHL is engaged for outbreak confirmation and case investigation, submit specimens to SHL at:  
50 Orms Street  
Providence, RI 02908
    - Submit in accordance with the specimen submission instructions in the collection kit.
  - You will receive a fax or email with the test results if using SHL.
  - RIDOH will receive the information automatically and needs the facility to add required case information (such as whether the person was symptomatic, masked, immunocompromised, etc.) to the result via the [COVID-19 Reporting Results Portal](#).
4. Response after initial testing results:
  - If test sample results are negative, test individuals again 5 to 7 days from initial date of test.
  - If test sample results are positive, RIDOH's Center for COVID-19 Epidemiology will advise.
    - As directed by RIDOH's Center for COVID-19 Epidemiology, engage in focused or broad-based outbreak testing which includes testing of identified Residents and Staff at least once every 3 to 7 days with POC or PCR tests until there have been no new positives for 14 days.
    - [Click here](#) for COVID-19 testing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.