

Date: 5/28/2020

## **FAQ's about COVID-19 Testing**

### ***Who must be tested?***

All employees, contract staff, per diem staff, medical staff, operators, administrators, and volunteers must be tested. Staff who are on leave, or otherwise not at the same site as residents, do not need to be tested so long as they remain offsite.

### ***How frequently should staff be tested?***

Executive Order No. 202.30 requires all personnel of nursing homes and adult care facilities, including all enriched housing programs, and assisted living residences, be tested twice a week. Staff who work at a facility three days per week or less only need to be tested once a week.

### ***Are staff who have had a positive diagnostic test for COVID-19 or a reactive serologic test for IgG against SARS-CoV-2 in the past included in the requirement to be tested twice per week?***

Yes. At this time, per Department of Health, staff who have had a positive diagnostic test for COVID-19 or a reactive serologic test for IgG against SARS-CoV-2 are still required to be tested to meet this requirement. However, this requirement may be reconsidered at a later time for previously COVID-19 positive individuals as more is learned about immunity following COVID-19.

### ***What is the minimum time interval between the required twice weekly tests?***

The required tests should be conducted at least two days apart.

### ***How should testing be conducted for staff who work at multiple facilities?***

Staff working at multiple facilities need to be tested twice per week. Those results may be used to meet the testing requirements at any facility, as long as documentation of the test result is provided to each facility. Each facility must maintain appropriate documentation of the test results. Documentation must be submitted to Human Resources upon receipt.

### ***Do staff who are on vacation need to be tested twice per week?***

No. Staff who are on vacation do not need to be tested during the time period when they are on leave or otherwise not present in the same building as residents, provided that they are promptly tested upon their return to the facility.

### ***Is antibody testing acceptable to fulfill the requirements of the twice weekly testing?***

No, the testing must be diagnostic to detect the SARS-CoV-2 virus (e.g. molecular such as a PCR test, or an antigen test). Per Department of Health, the antibody test is not acceptable. However, as stated above, this policy may be reconsidered for previously COVID-19 positive individuals as more is learned about immunity following COVID-19.

***Can staff work while waiting for test results?***

Yes, if a staff member is asymptomatic and being tested solely for the purpose of meeting the requirements of Executive Order No. 202.30, they may continue work while waiting for test results.

***Will I be notified of my test results?***

Due to the hundreds of tests being done, we will only be contacting employees who test positive.

***If I test positive, what will happen?***

If you test positive, you will be removed from work effective immediately. You must remain out of work for a minimum of 14 days, and you must be free of symptoms for 72 hours before returning to work. Additionally, before returning to work, you will need to be re-tested, and the test result must be negative. While you are out, you will be placed on a special sick leave for up to 2 weeks of pay. If you are still positive after 14 days, you are to contact our DBL carrier and apply for NYS disability. During this time, your vacation/PTO will be used for the first seven (7) days per our DBL policy.

***Can a staff member refuse to be tested?***

A staff member that refuses testing is considered to have an outdated or incomplete health assessment and shall be prohibited from working for the nursing home or assisted living facility until they complete testing.

***Who must pay for testing?***

Facilities are required to have in place a plan for testing and may submit claims for insurance coverage per the CARES Act. The employee will not be responsible for the testing cost.

***What if I want to take a test on my own? Can I take a test at another location?***

You always have the right to take a test on your own. If you choose to do so outside of the testing that Jewish Senior Life is undertaking, you would be responsible for the cost of that testing.

***If you have any further questions on training and/or testing, please email  
COVIDquestions@jewishseniorlife.org Thank you all for continuing to care for  
and support out residents.***

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