

# Testing Task Force Update

New tests reported: 499,366

Average test positivity past 7 days : **20.9%**

**Down 2.3% from last week**

**Average Test Turnaround time last week: 1.5 day**

**Turnaround time < 2 days: 81%**

**Turnaround time < 1 day: 57%**

Reported January 19, 2022 with data as of January 18, 2022.

- <https://covid19.ca.gov/state-dashboard/>
- <https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/>
- [https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/ca.open.data/viz/COVID-19CasesDashboardv2\\_0/CaseStatistics](https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/ca.open.data/viz/COVID-19CasesDashboardv2_0/CaseStatistics)

# AFL 22-2

- To facilitate visitation, California has allocated BinaxNOW CLIA waived antigen tests to SNFs
  - 3 tests per licensed SNF bed
- SNFs receiving testing supplies from the state must use the tests to facilitate visitation and to comply with the requirement that visitors must have a negative SARS-CoV-2 test to be eligible for an indoor visit as required by the [Public Health Officer](#) issued December 31, 2021.
- SNFs should contact their local MHOAC to order tests.
  - They should indicate the number of tests they need with the maximum of 3 tests per licensed bed.
- If you have any questions about this AFL, please contact your local [district office](#).

# Reminder for use of CLIA waived Antigen tests

- Different requirements than OTC tests. Cannot be used as OTC tests. People cannot self test.
- All results (positive and non-positive) must be reported
- We recommend individuals self swab and someone observes. Individuals can be swabbed by an appropriate medical professional, but this adds PPE demands.
- The test must be conducted by trained staff who are under the supervision of a laboratory director who has a CLIA waiver.
  - Anyone can be trained
  - Does not have to be nurses or infection preventionists
- If a facility does not have a CLIA waiver the facility should contact the Testing Taskforce at [testing.taskforce@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:testing.taskforce@cdph.ca.gov)
- Best practice would be for the visitor to not enter a SNF until results are obtained. Screen outside if possible.
- Positive antigen tests should be treated as positive, no confirmatory testing is needed and they should begin isolation
- Antigen tests are less sensitive than PCR tests so although pre-entry testing reduces the risk of spread of infection, individuals should continue to maintain infection control practices during the visit. If an individual has symptoms of infection they should not enter the facility regardless of their test results.

# Who can perform swabbing for COVID-19 tests

- [COVID-19 for Laboratories: FAQ's \(ca.gov\)](#) Under Laboratory Personnel

Licensed Personnel	Observe Self Swabbing	Anterior Nasal	Nasopharyngeal, Oropharyngeal
Medical Assistants	Yes	Yes	No
Physicians	Yes	Yes	Yes
Physicians Assistant	Yes	Yes	Yes
EMT	Yes	Yes	Yes
Registered Nurse	Yes	Yes	Yes
LVN	Yes	Yes	Yes
Psychiatric Technician	Yes	Yes	Yes
CNA, Home Health Aide, Certified Hemodialysis Technicians	Yes	No	No
Respiratory care practitioners	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pharmacists	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pharmacy Technicians	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other licensed personnel - contact appropriate licensing board for information on scope of practice			

# SNF visitor testing using OTC antigen tests: OTC “self test” vs OTC CLIA waived

- Antigen tests used for testing visitors or HCP must be supervised by the facility to verify the identity of the individual being tested and the date of the test.
- Supervised OTC testing may be conducted in 2 ways:
  - CLIA waived method –
    - If any individual besides the individual being tested conducts any part of the test. This includes reading the tests, swabbing the individual, adding the reagent.
    - **Reporting:** All results have to be reported to NHSN and CalREDIE
    - We do not recommend using OTC tests this way unless the facility has a CLIA-lab director that can manage this program and can report the test results.
  - OTC method - “self-test”
    - The entire test needs to be performed and read by the individual being tested. Staff should observe the individual perform the test and observe self swabbing and verify the result, however the individual performing the test must read their own result first before verifying their result with the observer.
    - **Reporting:** Test results do not have to be reported by the facility to CalREDIE or NHSN. A visitor that tests positive should inform their health provider for appropriate follow up care.

# COVIDtests.gov

## 4 Free COVID-19 OTC antigen tests per address

- Recommend that everyone including all SNF residents order COVID-19 OTC antigen tests through COVIDtests.gov
  - Possibility that SNF residents may be unable to order if someone has already ordered tests at a multi unit address.
  - USPS recommends emailing here if this occurs.
  - [Email Us | The Postal Store Inquiry \(usps.com\)](#)
  - These tests can be used to facilitate visitation to SNFs