

# AFL 20-53.3

SNF Weekly Infection Prevention Webinar  
September 16, 2020

---

---

Erin Epon, Medical Director / Chief  
Healthcare-Associated Infections Program  
Center for Health Care Quality



**Sandra Shewry**  
*Acting Director*

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
**California Department of Public Health**



**GAVIN NEWSOM**  
*Governor*

September 12, 2020

AFL 20-53.3

**TO:** Skilled Nursing Facilities

**SUBJECT:** Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Mitigation Plan Recommendations for Testing of Health Care Personnel (HCP) and Residents at Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF)  
(This AFL supersedes AFL 20-53.2)

**All Facilities Letter (AFL) Summary**

- This AFL provides recommendations from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for SNFs developing COVID-19 Mitigation Plans. This includes recommendations for baseline, screening, and response-driven testing of SNF residents and HCP to prevent spread of infection in the facility.
- This revision updates and clarifies testing guidelines to align with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) interim final rule on facility and resident COVID-19 testing and terminology from [new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) testing guidance](#), and includes the use of point of care (POC) antigen test instruments.

# Baseline, Symptomatic, Screening and Response COVID-19 Testing of SNF Residents and HCP

## Baseline

- Any SNF that does not currently have a known positive resident or HCP: conduct baseline testing for all residents and HCP.

No cases identified on baseline testing

## Screening

- Any SNF that does not currently have a known positive resident or HCP: conduct at least weekly testing of all HCP.

One (or more) positive resident or HCP identified

## Response

- As soon as possible after one (or more) COVID-19 positive individuals (resident or HCP) is identified in a facility, serial retesting of all residents and HCP who test negative upon initial testing should be performed weekly until no new cases are identified in residents in two sequential rounds of testing over 14 days.

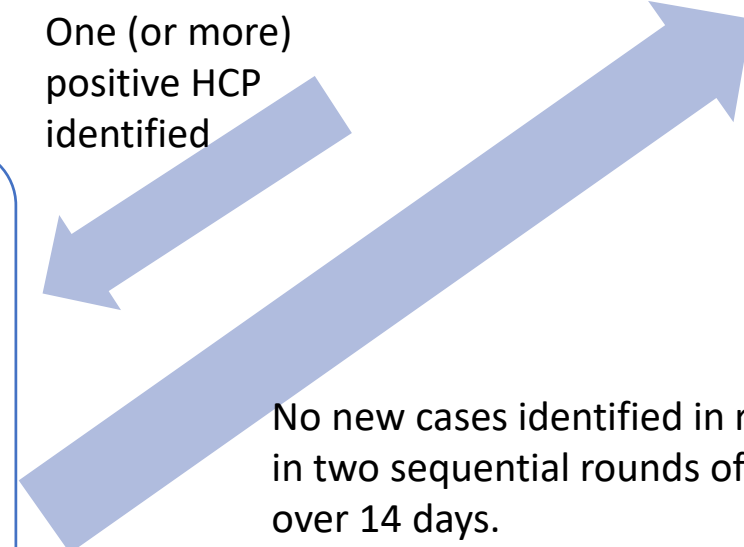
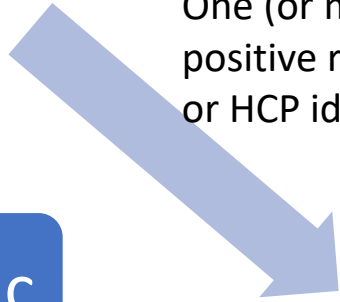
One (or more) positive HCP identified

No new cases identified in residents in two sequential rounds of testing over 14 days.

## Symptomatic

- Actively screen all residents and HCP for COVID-19 symptoms each day and test any resident or HCP who exhibits symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

One (or more) positive resident or HCP identified



## Point-of-Care (POC) Antigen Tests for

### Symptomatic, Screening and Response COVID-19 Testing of SNF Residents and HCP

- **Symptomatic testing:** POC antigen tests are most reliable when used on symptomatic individuals (SNF residents or HCP) in settings with high rates of transmission to quickly identify and isolate contagious individuals.
- **Screening testing:** POC antigen tests may be used for serial testing of asymptomatic individuals (e.g., SNF HCP) tested on a regular schedule (a minimum of weekly; SNF in counties with > 10% test positivity rate must test twice weekly per CMS).
- **Response testing:** POC antigen tests may be used for serial testing of asymptomatic individuals (residents and HCP) tested repeatedly during an outbreak when turnaround time for RT-PCR results is prolonged, e.g., >72 hours.

*The need for confirmatory RT-PCR testing depends on the testing scenario (symptomatic, screening, or response) and antigen test result (positive or negative).*

Point of Care (POC) Antigen Tests for Symptomatic, Screening and Response COVID-19 Testing of SNF Residents and HCP  
Considerations for Confirmatory RT-PCR Testing

