



**California Department of Public Health
Center for Health Care Quality
AFC Skilled Nursing Facilities Infection Prevention Call
January 24, 2024**

Monthly Call-in Information:

- 4th Wednesdays every month, 3:00pm SNF Infection Prevention Webinars:
 - Register at: <https://www.hsag.com/cdph-ip-webinars>
- 3rd Tuesdays every month, 11:30am HSAG NHSN & HAI Office Hours
 - Register: <https://bit.ly/NHSNHAofficehoursJantoJuly2024>

Important Links to State and Federal Guidance	
Important Links to CDPH State Guidance	https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Guidance.aspx
CDC's Interim IPC Recommendations for HCP During COVID-19	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html
CDPH AFLs	https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/pages/lncfl.aspx
CDPH COVID-19 AFLs	https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/COVID-19-AFLs.aspx

Agenda and Links to Slides

Slides available at: <https://www.hsag.com/en/covid-19/long-term-care-facilities/cdph-ip-webinars-past/>

- [CDPH Healthcare-Associated Infection \(HAI\) Updates](#)
- [CDPH Immunization Branch Updates](#)
- [HSAG NHSN & Vaccine Updates](#)
- [CDC RSV & Influenza Case and Vaccination Reporting](#)
- [CDPH Medical Countermeasures COVID-19 Testing Updates](#)
- [Therapeutics Task Force Updates](#)

Vaccine Question & Answer

Q-1: Need help organizing a COVID-19 vaccine clinic for residents and staff?

A: Complete the [vaccine access assistance form](#) and an HSAG vaccine coordinator will reach out to you to assist in:

- Scheduling vaccine clinics
- Providing on site and virtual vaccine education to residents, family members and staff

HCP Return to Work Question & Answer

Q-2: Do nursing homes still need to follow the return to work guidance for staff in AFL 21-08.9 “Guidance on Quarantine and Isolation for HCP Exposed to SARS-CoV-2 and Return to Work for HCP with COVID-19”?

A: Yes. Nursing homes still need to follow the guidance in AFL 21-08.9, which was last updated December 2, 2022. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-21-08.aspx>

PPE Question & Answer

Q-3: Can HCP wear KN95s instead of surgical masks when caring for residents that are not in isolation?

A: Yes. Surgical masks, KN95s, and KN94s can be used for **source control** by SNF HCP when caring for residents who do not have COVID-19 and when working in non-patient care areas. HCP must be trained on the fact that they do not provide respiratory protection. Only NIOSH-approved respirators, such as N95s, can be used as respiratory protection as part of transmission-based precautions.

Testing Questions & Answers

For testing questions (including ordering OTC tests), email OTCtesting@cdph.ca.gov

Q-4: How can nursing homes order more COVID-19 over-the-counter (OTC) tests?

A: CDPH is providing a 2-month supply of at-home COVID-19 tests to nursing homes outside of Los Angeles County. The deadline to order the tests is February 29, 2024 (while supplies last). The tests can be ordered at: <https://labsupport.powerappsportals.us/ordercovidotc/>. Nursing homes do not need to have a state laboratory license to receive these tests.

Ordering Timeframe	Order Request	Test Expiration Dates
1/19/24 - 2/29/24	2-month supply of tests	March 31, 2024

Q-5: Do nursing homes have to have a state laboratory license to receive professional CLIA-waived tests through CDPH?

A: Yes, to be eligible to request professional CLIA-waived antigen tests, nursing homes need to meet federal and state requirements, and must have a CLIA waiver and state laboratory license. The CLIA and the state license need to be under the name of the facility requesting tests. Connect with CDPH's Laboratory Field Services for more information: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OSPHLD/LFS/pages/home.aspx>.

Q-6: Are expired antigen tests still allowed to be used?

A: Some antigen tests have had their expiration dates extended based on additional data that was not available when the test was first authorized. Go to this FDA website (www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/home-otc-covid-19-diagnostic-tests#list) to determine if a home test that you have has an extended expiration date. Replace tests that are older than the extended expiration dates. If newer tests are not easily available, you may use an expired test as long as the internal control line remains valid.

Q-7: Do COVID-19 antigen tests detect the current variant?

A: Response from CDC:

- Manufacturers of FDA-cleared and authorized assays, including CDC, are required to perform ongoing monitoring of assay performance.
- FDA works with test manufacturers to ensure performance is maintained with new variants.
- **There is no indication that the CDC assay or any other FDA-authorized assays have decreased sensitivity for the JN.1 variant.**
- You can find the latest information regarding variants and COVID-19 test performance on this FDA website: [SARS-CoV-2 Viral Mutations: Impact on COVID-19 Tests | FDA](https://www.fda.gov/sars-cov-2-viral-mutations-impact-on-covid-19-tests).

Q-8: How and when should nursing homes implement “response testing”?

A: Approach to testing in response to newly identified COVID-19 case(s) in resident or HCP could involve either contact tracing or a broad-based (unit- or group-level) approach.

- Broad-based approach preferred if all potential contacts cannot be identified or managed with contact tracing or if contact tracing fails to halt transmission.
- SNFs should check with their local health department for any more stringent or specific guidance.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>

