



## Notice - Updates to Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Programs (August 6, 2020)

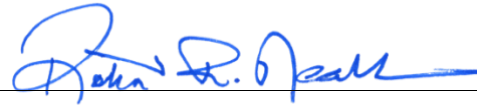
The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) advises all nursing homes and assisted living programs with fifty or more beds of the following:

- To update from our August 3, 2020 correspondence and to better serve Maryland Long-Term Care Facilities, the University of Maryland Pathology Associates (UMPA) lab has created a dedicated email address for those clients. This email address will provide a direct connection to UMPA team representatives at [mdtesting@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:mdtesting@som.umaryland.edu) or 667-214-2110.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced that it will begin providing nursing homes with COVID-19 Point of Care (POC) rapid response testing instruments to bolster each facility's ability to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Nationally, nursing homes with an active CLIA certificate of waiver began receiving deliveries of these devices beginning the week of July 20, 2020. Maryland nursing homes that do not have a CLIA certificate of waiver and Maryland state laboratory permit should complete the required applications and forward the completed applications to the Office of Health Care Quality to [paul.celli@maryland.gov](mailto:paul.celli@maryland.gov). The link to the CLIA and the state applications is: <https://health.maryland.gov/ohcq/Labs/Pages/Licensure.aspx>
- **Alternate Test Plans**, within the meaning of the respective MDH [Nursing Homes](#) and [Assisted Living Program](#) Orders requiring weekly testing of staff, will be approved if a nursing home or large assisted living program meets the following conditions and submits its plan to [mdh.covidlabresults@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.covidlabresults@maryland.gov):
  - The facility does not have a current COVID-19 outbreak.
  - The facility has an executed contract of COVID-19 testing arrangements with a lab licensed by the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) for COVID-19 to ensure weekly staff COVID-19 testing. ([https://health.maryland.gov/ohcq/Documents/COVID-19\\_Testing\\_Lab\\_List.pdf](https://health.maryland.gov/ohcq/Documents/COVID-19_Testing_Lab_List.pdf))
  - The facility presents a plan to implement POC testing, as authorized under MDH Various Health Care Matters Order, No. 2020-08-06-01, that is sufficient for the weekly testing of all staff.
  - If a COVID-19 outbreak (one or more residents or staff) is detected, all staff and residents, pursuant to the respective MDH Orders, must be tested by PCR assays through the facility's contracted-with laboratory.

**Note:** A facility is required, per the relevant MDH Orders and the recommendation from the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and [U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services](#) (CMS), to continue weekly staff testing for COVID-19. This guidance for alternate testing plans simply allows a facility with no COVID-19 outbreaks to use POC testing for weekly staff testing.

**Note:** MDH intends to review the above Alternate Test Plan Guidance by mid-September and depending on the COVID-19 situation in Maryland, will revise and update its guidance.

This Notice is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until it is revised or until the state of emergency has been terminated and the proclamation of the catastrophic health emergency has been rescinded.



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Robert R. Neall  
Secretary