CONSIDERATIONS FOR INTERPRETING ANTIGEN TEST RESULTS IN NURSING HOMES

Does the resident or healthcare personnel (HCP) have symptoms consistent with COVID-19?*

SYMPTOMATIC

POC Antigen Test

POSITIVE
No confirmatory test needed. Isolate/exclude from work.
If index case, initiate outbreak response.

PRESUMPTIVE NEGATIVE
Perform confirmatory RT-PCR test immediately. Isolate/exclude from work until RT-PCR results. Actions dependent on RT-PCR test alone.**

ASYMPTOMATIC

Facility with an outbreak (Resident and HCP serial testing)

POC antigen testing every 3-7 days ##

POSITIVE
No confirmatory test needed. Isolate/exclude from work.

PRESUMPTIVE NEGATIVE
Continue serial testing until no new positives for 14 days.^^

Facility without an outbreak (HCP serial screening testing)

HCP POC antigen screening interval per CMS requirements #

POSITIVE
No confirmatory test needed. Isolate/exclude from work.

PRESUMPTIVE NEGATIVE
Allow HCP to continue work. Continue serial testing.

RT-PCR TEST POSITIVE
Initiate outbreak response.

RT-PCR TEST NEGATIVE
Discuss with public health.^

* Asymptomatic individuals who have recovered from SARS-CoV-2 infection in the past 3 months and live or work in a nursing home performing facility-wide testing do not need to be retested. If an individual has recovered from SARS-CoV-2 infection in the past 3 months and develops new symptoms suggestive of COVID-19, alternative diagnoses should be considered prior to retesting for SARS-CoV-2.

** Some antigen platforms have higher sensitivity when testing individuals within 5 days of symptom onset. Clinical discretion should be utilized to determine if retesting by RT-PCR is warranted.

# CMS recommendations for testing asymptomatic HCP in facilities without a case
## CDC guidance on testing residents of nursing homes
# CDC guidance on testing HCP

^ In discussion with the local health department, community incidence and time between antigen test and RT-PCR test can be utilized to interpret discordant results and determine when HCP can return to work.

^^ If an antigen test is presumptive negative in a facility with an outbreak, residents should be placed in transmission-based precautions or HCP should be allowed to continue working while monitoring for symptoms.