Long-term care facility COVID-19 viral testing flowchart – Interim guidance

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1. **Facility with one case or an outbreak**
   - **Initial Testing**
     - Perform facility-wide testing of all residents & health care personnel (HCP)

2. **Facility with no cases in last 28 days**
   - **Initial Testing**
     - **Nursing Homes:** Perform facility-wide testing of all residents & HCP
     - **Other LTCFs:** Consider facility-wide testing

3. **Immediate testing**
   - Immediately test any resident or HCP who subsequently develops signs or symptoms consistent with COVID-19

4. **Repeat testing**
   - Continue repeat testing of all previously negative residents and HCP (e.g., every 3-7 days) until no new cases are identified over a period of at least 14 days

5. **New cases identified**
   - **Immediate testing**
   - Immediately test any resident or HCP who subsequently develops signs or symptoms consistent with COVID-19
   - **Repeat testing of HCP**
     - **Nursing Homes:** Perform weekly testing of HCP
     - **Other LTCFs:** Consider weekly testing of HCP

6. **No cases identified**
   - **Repeat testing**
   - Continue repeat testing of all previously negative residents and HCP (e.g., every 3-7 days) until no new cases are identified over a period of at least 14 days

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1. RT-PCR testing by a licensed laboratory is considered the gold standard and recommended testing method. Antigen point of care testing may be used for immediate testing of symptomatic individuals. Additionally, if a facility cannot readily access PCR testing with rapid turnaround time and has had no cases in the last 28 days, then antigen testing should be considered as a tool for repeat testing of HCP. Refer to IDPH memo for additional guidance.

2. IDPH definition of a COVID-19 outbreak in long-term care: One laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 case plus ≥1 other ill with COVID-19-like symptoms, (but may not be tested yet), and symptom onset or positive SARS-CoV-2 test in cases within 14 days of each other. An outbreak is considered resolved once no new cases are identified over a period of at least 28 days.


4. Some local health departments may choose to extend the period of testing to at least 28 days of no new cases.


6. Facilities may also consider conducting periodic follow-up facility-wide testing of residents to identify asymptomatic and subclinical infections.