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)

**POSITIVE**
Especially in low incidence counties, consider performing confirmatory RT-PCR test within 48 hrs. Exclude from work, pending confirmatory test.

**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.^

This algorithm should be used as a guide, but clinical decisions may deviate from this guide if indicated. Contextual factors including community incidence, characteristics of different antigen testing platforms, as well as availability and turnaround times of RT-PCR, further inform interpretation of antigen test results.

RT-PCR: reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction
POC: point-of-care
HCP: healthcare personnel

Index case: a newly identified case of SARS-CoV-2 infection in a resident or HCP in a nursing home facility with no known infections of SARS-CoV-2 infection in the previous 14-day period.

COVID-19 outbreak response in a nursing home is triggered when one nursing home-onset SARS-CoV-2 infection in a resident or one HCP SARS-CoV-2 infection.

* 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.

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