

Reporting Results of COVID-19 Tests Performed Inside Your Long-term Care Facility

Point of care (POC) antigen tests should be interpreted in the context of the prevalence of infection or disease, the device's performance characteristics and instructions for use, and the patient's clinical signs, symptoms, and history. Follow the manufacturer's recommendation for interpreting and reporting test results to tested individuals.

Reporting requirements for POC antigen testing

The following instructions on reporting COVID-19 do not apply to testing completed by an external laboratory. If you send specimens to a reference laboratory for testing, the laboratory will do the reporting. If you conduct the testing inside your facility, you are acting as a laboratory and must report results to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) via the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Respiratory Pathogens Module or the MDH COVID-19 Patient Reporting Form.

Only positive POC COVID-19 test results performed on a laboratory testing platform inside your facility must be reported. Results must be reported within one working day. There are two ways for long-term care (LTC) facilities to report these results:

- **CDC NHSN Long-term Care Respiratory Pathogens Module**
(<https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/weekly-covid-vac/index.html>)
- **MDH COVID-19 Patient Reporting Form**
(<https://redcap-c19.web.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=9XMX7WKRTM>)

Federally certified nursing facilities

Federally certified nursing facilities must report POC COVID-19 positive test results, including antigen test results, but they may choose to report through the CDC NHSN LTC Respiratory Pathogens Module or the MDH COVID-19 Patient Reporting Form. Facilities can report via NHSN if they have the required Level 3 Secure Access Management Services (SAMS) access. This reporting is required by CMS through QSO-21-10-CLIA (<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-21-10-clia.pdf>).

Assisted living facilities

Assisted living facilities should report positive POC COVID-19 test results through the MDH COVID-19 Patient Reporting Form.

Reporting POC positive antigen test results to NHSN

LTC facilities reporting POC positive antigen test results using the LTC Respiratory Pathogens Module need to enroll in NHSN. Some facilities (e.g., federally certified nursing facilities) have already acquired limited Secure Access Management Service (SAMS) access to NHSN earlier in the COVID-19 pandemic to complete required CMS reporting through the LTC Respiratory Pathogens Module Reporting Pathways.

LTC facilities that wish to report positive POC SARS-CoV-2 testing results into the NHSN application but have limited access to the Respiratory Pathogens Module only (specifically, no SAMS grid card) will need to upgrade their NHSN SAMS access from Level 1 to Level 3. Use the information available on CDC’s website or email the NHSN program for assistance.

- Contact NHSN@cdc.gov with the subject line “SAMS Level 3 Access” to begin upgrading SAMS access.

Facilities enrolling in NHSN for the first time should follow the instructions on CDC’s website. Learn more by reviewing CDC’s LTC COVID-19 Module Enrollment Refresher from May 2020. Enrolled facilities should not re-enroll when starting to report POC antigen test results.

- [CDC: 5-Step Enrollment for Long-term Care Facilities \(www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/enroll.html\)](http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/enroll.html)
- [CDC: LTCF COVID-19 Module Enrollment Refresher \[YouTube video – 40 min\] \(youtu.be/iLb_rRgTvUw\)](https://youtu.be/iLb_rRgTvUw)
- [CDC: LTCF COVID-19 Module Enrollment Refresher Slideset \(www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/covid19/ltc/covid19-enroll-refresh-508.pdf\)](http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/covid19/ltc/covid19-enroll-refresh-508.pdf)

Required MDH case reporting

LTC facilities must report aggregate case counts in addition to individual positive POC laboratory results under the MDH disease reporting rule: [Infectious Disease Reporting \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/reportable/index.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/reportable/index.html).

Cases must be reported weekly through the [COVID-19 Long-Term Care Report Form \(https://redcap-c19.web.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=HH47NMERJHJX7CJF\)](https://redcap-c19.web.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=HH47NMERJHJX7CJF). This information is required for all resident cases associated with your facility, whether tested with a POC antigen test or with RT-PCR by a reference laboratory.

Minnesota Department of Health
625 Robert Street North
PO Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
www.health.state.mn.us

7/27/26

To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5414.