

Adult Family Home Point in Time Testing Guidance for COVID-19

Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) has directed Adult Family Homes to do the following:

Requested Action:

1. Test all residents, staff and any others who live in your facility for COVID-19 by 12/31/2020. If an individual has tested positive for COVID-19 within the preceding 90 days do not retest them. Consent is required for testing.
2. Request COVID-19 tests from Washington State Department of Health. The preferred test is the Everlywell Test. This test can be used by staff and residents who have their own email address and staff can self-administer the tests. In the circumstance that staff or residents do not have their own personal email account or cannot facilitate specimen collection, Department of Health testing kits may be used under the order of a contracted provider or the Washington State Health Officer if a contracted provider is not available. The standing order can be accessed here https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/LTCF_Standing_Order.pdf
3. Labs will bill for resident tests through the resident's insurance carrier. Washington State Department of Health is covering the cost for this one-time test for all staff.
4. Follow appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) guidance for specimen collection: Healthcare workers (HCW) collecting the COVID-19 specimen should wear gown, gloves, medical mask or N95, and eye protection. Health Care Workers observing residents or staff self-collecting specimens should maintain 6 feet of distancing and wear mask, eye protection, and gloves, but may opt not to wear a gown (unless other transmission-based precautions indicate). **Gown and gloves should be changed with every resident encounter, including nasal specimens.** If additional PPE is needed please follow the process outlined in the following link: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/residential-care-services/ppe-facilities>

Background:

Long-term care facility (LTCF) residents including those in Adult Family Homes are at high risk for infection, serious illness, and death from COVID-19. Testing, along with other infection prevention and control measures, is a critical tool to identify cases and stop transmission. Point in time testing detects baseline rates of asymptomatic infections and will help inform infection prevention and control efforts for COVID-19. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance released 5/18/20 recommend a baseline universal test for all residents and staff before a facility progresses between any phases of re-opening.

Resources:

AFH Point Prevalence COVID-19 Testing ALTSA: AFH#2020-055 - <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/ALTSA/rcs/documents/afh/020-055.pdf>

FAQ: COVID-19 Testing of Residents and Staff of Adult Family Homes - <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/ALTSA/rcs/documents/afh/AFH%20Testing%20FAQ.pdf>

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
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Dimyana Abdelmalek, MD, MPH, Health Officer



12/3/20

STANDING ORDER FOR COVID-19 SCREENING IN CERTAIN CONGREGATE FACILITIES AND AGENCIES -

https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/LTCF_Standing_Order.pdf

DOH Long-Term Care -

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020/LongTermCareFacilities>

DOH COVID-19 - <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>

Centers for Disease Control - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Thurston County Public Health and Social Services -

<https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/phss/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

DSHS Safe Start for Long-Term Care (Adult Family Homes, Assisted Living Facilities & Enhanced Services Facilities)

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/LTC%20Safe%20Start%20AFH-ALF-ESF.pdf>

THANK YOU FOR REPORTING

TO REPORT A NOTIFIABLE CONDITION IN THURSTON COUNTY	
Voice mail for reporting non-immediately reportable conditions (24 hours a day)	Phone: 360-786-5470 Fax: 360-867-2601
Day time immediately reportable conditions – Call detailed information to the 24-hour Notifiable Condition Reporting Line at 360-786-5470. Messages are picked up hourly. If a call back can't wait call 360-867-2500 and ask staff to locate a Communicable Disease staff.	Phone: 360-786-5470
After hours immediately and 24-hour reportable conditions or a public health emergency	Call 1-800-986-9050
No one is available with Thurston County Public Health and condition is immediately notifiable	1-877-539-4344

Communicable Disease Updates are posted online at: <http://bit.ly/CDUpdatePHSS>