

### Long-term Care Nursing Homes and Licensed Residential (Assisted Living) COVID-19 Outbreak FAQs

#### 1. When should I contact my district infection preventionist (IP)?

The district IP can help answer infection control questions or set up an Outbreak Response visit. Please do not hesitate to contact the IP for any infection control assistance at any time, especially if it has been a while or you want to review guidance over the phone. Please refer to the IDOH infection prevention team's [website](#).

We **highly recommend** that facilities contact their District IP if one or more positive case(s) are found in staff or residents during the **third round** of outbreak testing (14 days after the initial positive).

#### 2. After reporting an Outbreak Case Alert, do I need to report additional cases of the outbreak on the Gateway?

An Outbreak Case Alert is one or more COVID-19 case(s), a staff OR a resident, in a facility where no confirmed cases were identified in the four-week period prior. Therefore, you **do not need to report additional cases of an outbreak** to the Gateway. You will need to report on the Gateway when a new Outbreak Case Alert happens.

However, continue to report positive point-of-care (POC) tests on NHSN Point of Care Laboratory Reporting Tool (for SNF/NF) or [IDOH COVID-19 Point of Care Test Reporting REDCap](#) (for facilities not reporting to NHSN).

Please refer to [LTC Facility Data Submission Guidelines](#) and the [Revised Reporting Chart](#).

#### 3. Where can I get PPE?

Please check your PPE inventory regularly and reorder before your supplies are exhausted. Please work with your suppliers or your local health department to obtain PPE.

#### 4. Where can I get testing supplies?

Please check your testing supplies regularly and reorder before your supplies are exhausted. Ensure you have enough supplies for potential outbreak testing needs. Check with other vendors if you are not able to secure tests from your usual supplier.

#### 5. Where can I get antivirals/ COVID-19 therapeutics?

If a resident is eligible for COVID-19 antivirals, please check with your LTC pharmacy as many LTC pharmacies have supplies.

- Please refer to the [ASPR's COVID-19 Decision Aid](#) for appropriate treatment options
- Please refer to [Indiana's COVID-19 treatment information](#) for treatment sites in Indiana.



## 6. When should we test staff and/or residents?

**Table 1: Testing Summary**

Testing Trigger	Staff	Residents
Symptomatic individual identified	Staff, regardless of vaccination status, with signs or symptoms must be tested.	Residents, regardless of vaccination status, with signs or symptoms must be tested.
Newly identified COVID-19 positive staff or resident in a facility that can identify close contacts	Test all staff, regardless of vaccination status, that had a higher-risk exposure with a COVID-19 positive individual.	Test all residents, regardless of vaccination status, that had close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual.
Newly identified COVID-19 positive staff or resident in a facility that is unable to identify close contacts	Test all staff, regardless of vaccination status, facility-wide or at a group level if staff are assigned to a specific location where the new case occurred (e.g., unit, floor, or other specific area(s) of the facility).	Test all residents, regardless of vaccination status, facility-wide or at a group level (e.g., unit, floor, or other specific area(s) of the facility).
Routine testing	<i>Not generally recommended</i>	Not generally recommended

Refer to [CMS' QSO 20-38-NH](#).

## 7. Can vaccines/boosters be given to COVID-19 positive individuals?

In LTC, boosters can be given while outbreak testing is in progress, including to those with a history of close contact, however, **do not give boosters to those with symptoms/confirmed COVID-19**. For individuals with confirmed COVID-19, the vaccine can be given only after they have completed the isolation period (10 days for asymptomatic or mild to moderate illness, up to 20 days in those with immunocompromised conditions, severe illness, or who needed hospitalization).

Please ensure you have ongoing COVID-19 vaccination plans in place.

