

May 13, 2020

To All Licensed Nursing Facilities in Texas:

On May 11, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott directed that 100 percent of staff and residents in Texas nursing facilities be tested for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Nursing facilities licensed by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) will be contacted very soon by a testing team to schedule specimen collection. Facilities that are scheduled for testing will be given at least 24-hours-notice prior to the specimen collection process taking place. Administrators should make arrangements for off-duty staff to be present at the facility during the specimen collection. The Medical Director for the nursing facility will be the physician of record, or ordering physician, for the testing to ensure test results are sent directly to the facility.

The testing teams may consist of state and/or local government personnel, including first responders from your local fire department, or Texas Military Department. The testing teams will self-screen before entering the nursing facility. Testing teams will bring their own personal protective equipment and all supplies necessary to complete the testing. The teams are implementing the governor and White House's direction and are authorized to enter the nursing facility.

Nursing facilities may choose to conduct testing independent of the state process. If your nursing facility has tested 100 percent of residents and staff within the last 30 days, inform the testing team when you are contacted to schedule testing. You will be required to provide documentation to the team calling to schedule testing and to HHSC Long Term Care Regulatory showing when all residents and staff were tested.

If you have questions about this process, contact the HHSC Long Term Care Regulatory region for assistance.

Sincerely,



Phil Wilson