

April 17, 2021

Re: CMS Positivity Data

Dear Nursing Home Administrators:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has transitioned all states to calculating percent positivity using reported laboratory results rather than reported aggregate counts. To facilitate this transition, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has been working with the CDC's technical team the past two months to validate Ohio's reported laboratory results. This work included the collection and reconciliation of the required data from many of Ohio's laboratories.

ODH anticipates finalizing the validation next week so that the CDC, in partnership with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), can continue reporting positivity data for Ohio the week of April 26, 2021. Until that time, Ohio nursing homes should refer to their county's most recently published test positivity classification for the period ending March 30, 2021.

As a reminder, the [Director's Amended Order for the Testing of the Residents and Staff of all Nursing Homes](#) specifies that all unvaccinated staff shall be tested at least twice per week and fully vaccinated staff shall be tested at least once per week. However, if the county where the facility is located has a test positivity classification of red, staff shall be tested at least twice per week regardless of vaccination status.

Thank you for your continued prioritization of the health and safety of your residents, staff, and families. We will continue to work closely with your respective associations and leaders to provide the best assistance to your facilities throughout this emergency.

Sincerely,



Ursel J. McElroy
Director



Stephanie McCloud
Director