

Updates on COVID-19 Testing in Nursing Homes

Responsible RestartOhio

July 15th, 2020

The Webinar Will Begin at 9:30am

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Welcome & Introductory Remarks

Maureen Corcoran, Director, Ohio Department of Medicaid

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Agenda

Updates on Covid-19 Testing in Nursing Homes Responsible RestartOhio

1. Where are we today?
2. Nursing Facility Testing
 1. Staff Testing Update
 2. Resident Testing Plan
3. Concluding remarks

Where Are We Today?

Maureen Corcoran, Director, Ohio Department of Medicaid

Bridget Harrison, Healthcare Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor

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Testing in Nursing Homes Website



Department
of Health

Coronavirus (COVID-19)



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Healthcare
Providers and
Local Health

WELCOME

TESTING IN NURSING
HOMES

Testing in Nursing Homes

June 16, 2020 | [COVID-19](#)

Nursing homes residents are among the most vulnerable population to COVID-19. To protect staff who take care of them, the presence of COVID-19 in nursing homes must be identified so that measures can be put into place to isolate the virus.

To that end, Ohio's Congregate Care Unified Response Team (CCURT) has developed an approach for testing these residents and staff guided by the following:

- Protect Ohioans in communities and congregate facilities, including nursing home facilities.
- Use the best available clinical information and most recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance, including testing prioritization with

**CONTINUE TO CHECK WEBSITE FOR
UPDATED DOCUMENTS**

- Ohio's Plan for Nursing Home Testing June 2
 - [Webinar Recording](#)
 - [Webinar Presentation Slides](#)
- [Testing in Nursing Homes Fact Sheet](#)
- [Testing in Nursing Homes FAQ](#)
- [Zone and Region Map](#)
- [CCURT Bridge Team Guidance and Information](#)
- [Nursing Facility Transfer Protocol](#)
- [Guidelines for Testing of Nursing Home Residents and Staff](#)
- [Contingency and Crisis Facility Staffing Guidance](#)

COVID - 19 | Key Indicators

Last Updated: 07-14-20

Cases

Total Reported **Cases**

67,995

Last 24 Hour Reported **Cases** Change

1,142

21 Day Reported **Case** Average

1,041

21 Day Trend



Deaths

Total Reported **Deaths**

3,069

Last 24 Hours Reported **Deaths** Change

5

21 Day Reported **Death** Average

16

21 Day Trend



Hospitalizations

Total Reported **Hospitalizations**

9,049

Last 24 Reported Hours **Hospitalizations** Change

134

21 Day Reported **Hospitalization** Average

80

21 Day Trend



ICU Admissions

Total Reported **ICU Admissions**

2,223


Last 24 Hours Reported **ICU Admissions** Change

22

21 Day Reported **ICU Admission** Average

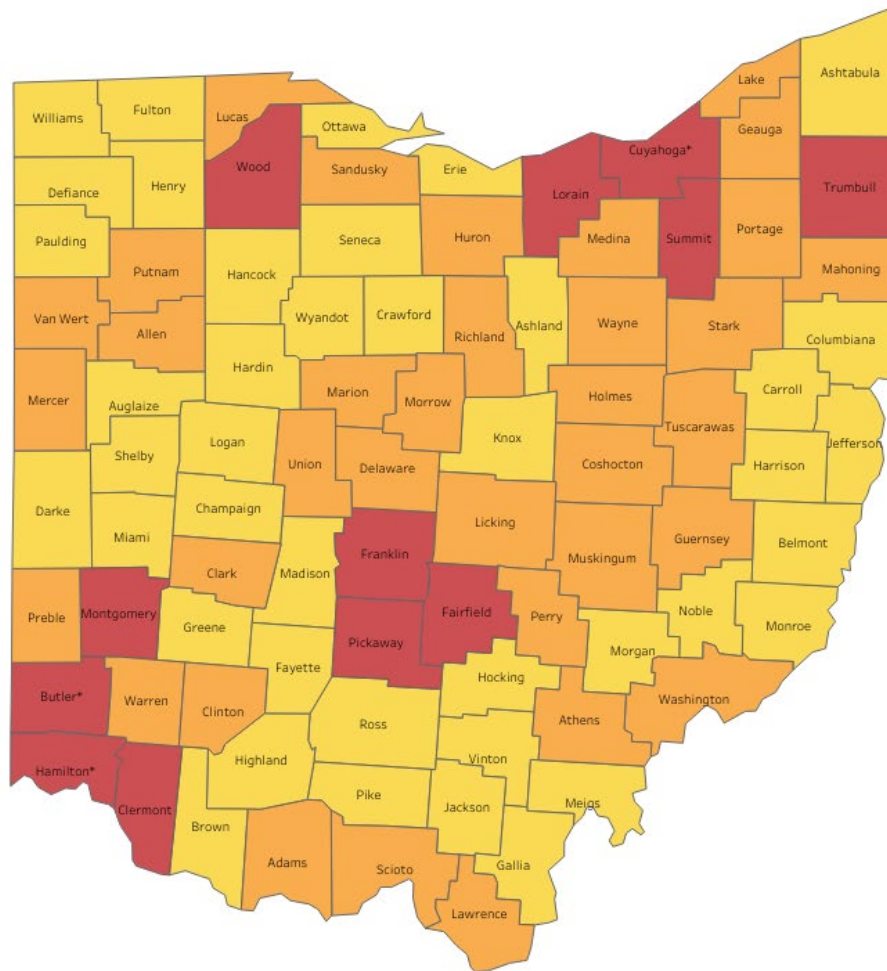
17

21 Day Trend



All dates are based when an indicator is reported and will not match data in other COVID-19 dashboards provided by the Ohio Department of Health. All other dashboards are based on onset date, date of hospitalization, or date of death.

Ohio's Public Health Advisory Alert System



The Public Health Advisory Alert System is a color-coded system designed to supplement existing statewide orders through a data-driven framework to assess the degree of the virus' spread and to engage and empower individuals, businesses, communities, local governments, and others in their response and actions.

Level 1 Public Emergency: active exposure and spread.	Yellow
Level 2 Public Emergency: increased exposure and spread. Exercise high degree of caution.	Orange
Level 3 Public Emergency: very high exposure and spread. Limit activities as much as possible.	Red
Level 4 Public Emergency: severe exposure and spread. Only leave home for supplies and services.	Purple

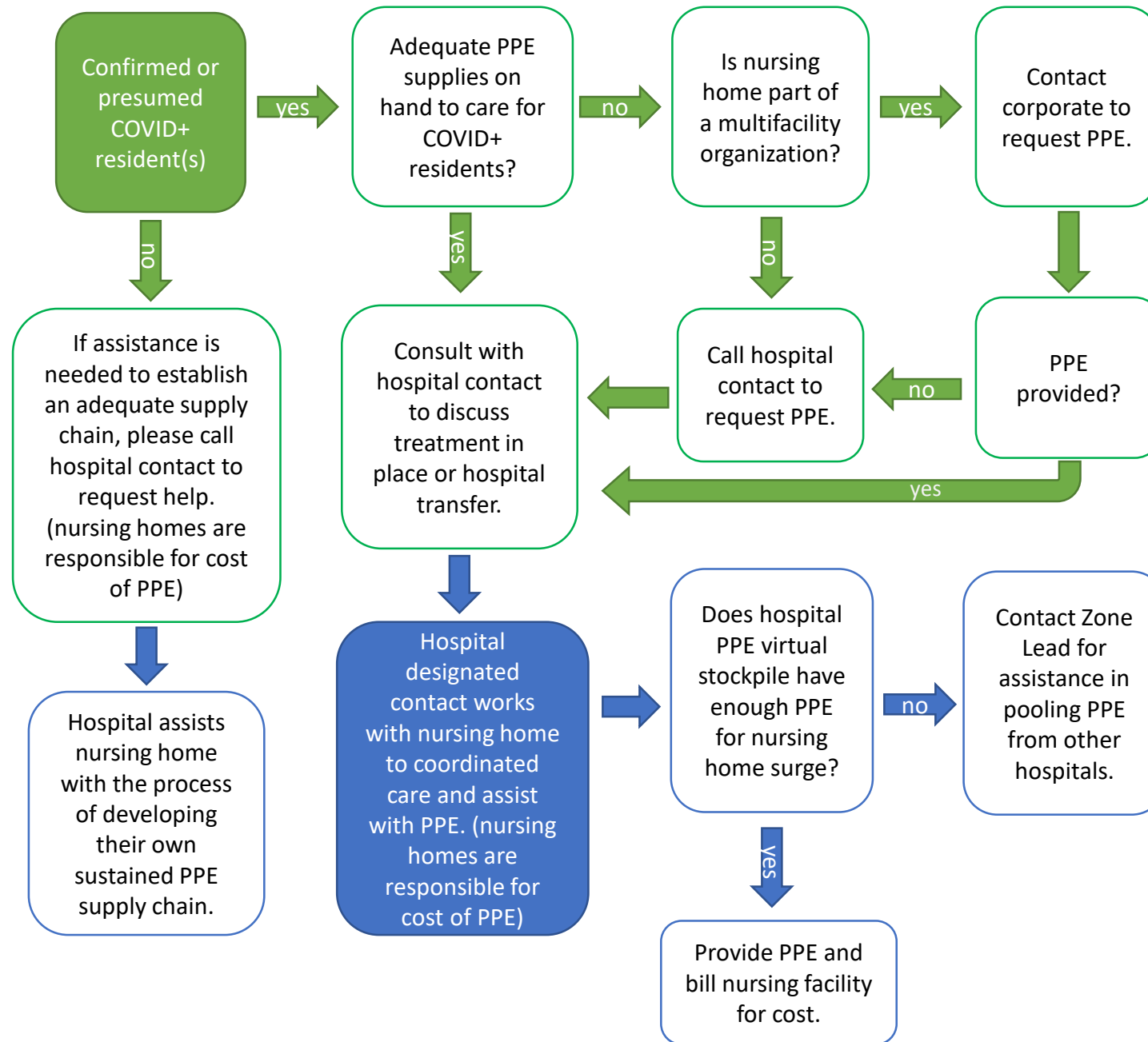
For All Public Emergency Levels, Follow All Current Health Orders

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- The state's focus on PPE procurement, innovative production, newly adopted re-sterilization techniques, and supply conservation efforts has stabilized PPE supplies in some settings.
- The availability of PPE continues to vary by zone/region and type of setting.
- While the supply chain remains uncertain, tracking systems have been deployed to monitor inventory levels, condition and availability across hospitals and many congregate care facilities.
- In QSO memos 20-26-NH and 20-29-NH there is a requirement to report PPE status along with testing data. If this is not done citations will be issued.

Statewide PPE Stockpile

- ODH, in partnership with Ohio's hospitals and other providers, will establish a virtual stockpile of PPE for use with COVID-19 patients and health care workers.
- Will ensure a reliable PPE supply in the event of a surge of COVID-19 patients.
- The virtual stockpile is not intended to replace each provider's responsibility to procure PPE and other supplies for their organizations for non-urgent diagnostic services or procedures.
- All providers are urged to take all reasonable efforts to both conserve and responsibly procure and manage their PPE supplies for all (COVID and non-COVID) patients.
- Providers in specialties or practice settings that may not experience COVID-19 patient surges will must be situationally aware of statewide PPE, supplies, equipment, and medicine needs and be prepared to contribute as necessary.



Updates on Nursing Home Testing

Staff Testing Update

Resident Testing Guidelines and Process

Mary Applegate, MD, Medical Director, Ohio Department of Medicaid

Rebecca Sandholdt, Chief, Bureau of Survey and Certification, Ohio Department of Health

Marisa Weisel, Deputy Director of Strategic Initiatives, Ohio Department of Medicaid

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Ohio's COVID-19 Testing Priorities

Priority 1 Ohioans with symptoms: Individuals who are hospitalized and healthcare personnel.

Priority 2 People at highest risk of complications from COVID-19 and those who provide essential public services.

- **With Symptoms:**

- Residents of LTC/congregate living settings
- 65 and older
- People with underlying conditions, including consideration for racial & ethnic minorities
- First responders/public health workers/critical infrastructure workers

- **Without symptoms** who are residents or staff directly exposed, LTC/Congregate care living setting

- **Other Ohioans who are designated by public health officials to manage community outbreak**

Priority 3 Ohioans with and without symptoms who are receiving essential surgeries/procedures and other medically necessary procedures.

Priority 4 Individuals in the community to decrease community spread, including those with symptoms who do not meet criteria above.

Priority 5 Asymptomatic individuals not mentioned above.

Director's Order for Testing Residents and Staff of Nursing Homes

- This action is being taken to protect residents and staff.
- The Order requires nursing homes to have employees and residents to be tested in accordance with ODH Guidelines.
- Nursing homes may be required to provide additional information.
- ODH has provided guidance to mitigate facility staffing shortages in the event staff who are positive are unable to work.
- This order takes into consideration and is intended to be consistent with resident rights.

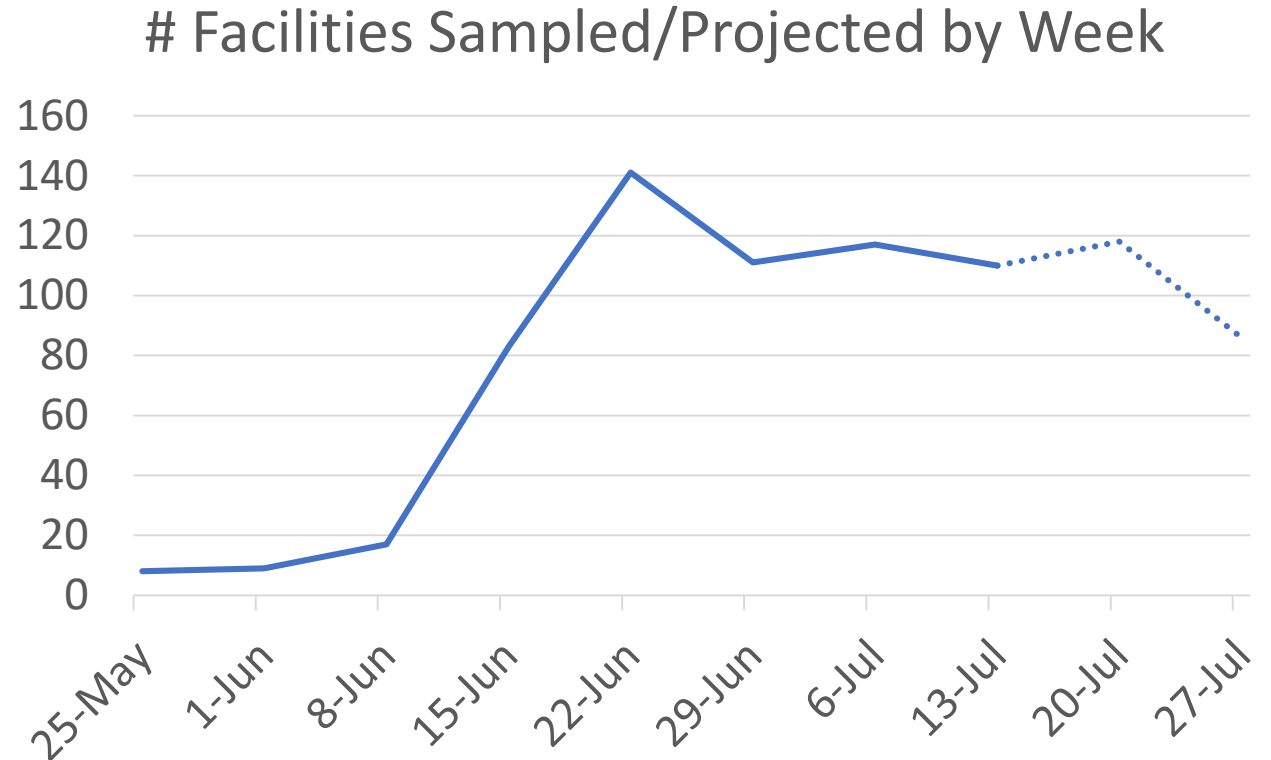
State agency staff, the Ohio National Guard, and Hospital Zone Leadership are supporting nursing homes in meeting the requirements of the Order.

Director's Order Applicability

- Each nursing home licensed by the ODH or certified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), or the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) shall cooperate with the COVID-19 testing for staff and residents as required by ODH. To prevent the spread of COVID-19:
 - Each nursing facility will have all employees tested.
 - Each nursing facility will have all residents tested.
 - A resident may refuse testing, per their resident rights.

Current Status of Staff Testing in Nursing Homes

- As of 7/14: 71% complete
- State/ONG progress:
 - Over 520 facilities
 - Over 50,000 employees
 - Over 1,500 residents
- 148 facilities tested without state support
- Target completion: 7/31



Closing Out Baseline Testing of Nursing Home Staff

- Facilities that opted-out of the state supported/ONG testing need to have staff tested (specimens collection date) by July 17, 2020. A letter verifying compliance with the Order, including a summary of results, must be submitted on facility letterhead to CCURT@odh.ohio.gov by July 31, 2020.
- Facilities that participated in state / Ohio National Guard (ONG) supported testing must complete remaining staff testing (specimen collection date) within three weeks from the date of the ONG. A letter verifying compliance with the Order for all employees, including a summary of results, must be submitted on facility letterhead to CCURT@odh.ohio.gov once results are received.
- After baseline testing is complete at a facility, staff who develop symptoms should be immediately tested.

Scope of Resident Testing is Based on Infection Control

- Per the Order and Guidelines, all residents must be tested for COVID-19.
- Beyond Resident Testing: NFs must follow the infection control requirements set forth in regulations. These include developing a system of identifying and controlling the spread of communicable diseases among:
 - Staff
 - Contract and agency staff (including hospice staff, attending physicians, etc.)
 - Volunteers
 - Private caregivers
 - Others who enter the building

Meeting Requirements of the Order

- Facilities can meet requirements for resident testing by:
 - Participating in state-supported testing using the process described in this webinar, or
 - Conducting resident testing without state support between 7/3/20 and 8/21/20.
- The facility should maintain a complete ongoing list of individual-level **resident and staff** COVID-19 test results for compliance purposes.
 - Upon ODH request, a compiled list of staff and resident individual-level data, de-identified, must be made immediately available spreadsheet format.

Verification of Tests Conducted Without State Support

- Baseline resident testing conducted without state support will meet the requirements if both of the following conditions are met:
 - Resident tests were conducted **between July 3, 2020 and August 21, 2020**.
 - Lab tests performed were [RT-PCR](#) diagnostic tests.
- Facilities that do not participate in state-supported testing must verify that they have met the requirements of the order by sending a signed letter on the facility's letterhead to CCURT@odh.ohio.gov.
 - The letter must provide **summary-level** testing results for all residents.
 - Include information on the number of residents who refused testing.
 - **Please do not send individual results.**
- Facilities with residents who miss ONG testing day must also send verification of completion of all resident testing within 3 weeks of their testing day to CCURT@odh.ohio.gov.

Overview of Benchmark Resident Testing with State Support

The state team and the Ohio National Guard are:

- Identifying the order and schedule for specimen collection/swabbing and transportation of samples to a lab
- Communicating with facilities, the labs, local health departments (LHDs); hospital zone and local hospital partners, and regional health care coordinators.
- Providing training materials for specimen collection/swabbing.
- Assigning facilities to labs and providing and/or arranging training on the labs' processes.
- Providing technical assistance, support, and connection to resources for facilities as they obtain results from resident testing.

Congregate Care Unified Response Team (CCURT)

The DeWine Administration created a multi-agency, multi-discipline response team, the Congregate Care Unified Response Team (CCURT) to coordinate COVID-19 testing in congregate care environments and provide technical assistance and support to facilities during the pandemic.

Our collective goal is to save lives, to slow the spread of the virus and to provide clinically driven approaches through collaboration with facilities and community

- **Unified Response Teams (URTs):** teams of state staff accompany facilities through the testing, resulting, and aftercare processes. A Contact Administrator (CA) from a URT will contact facilities prior to testing, coordinate with other state and local partners and remain a contact person throughout the testing process. Three teams are being led by:
 - Zone 1: James Hodge
 - Zone 2: Rebecca Sandholdt
 - Zone 3: Julie Evers
- **Bridge team:** working with the URTs, this team assists facilities to address urgent needs.
- **Lab team:** coordinates with ODH and other state-supported labs. By working with all of Ohio's testing labs and monitoring Ohio's lab testing capacity, an efficient schedule for testing can be managed and adjusted to provide an appropriate cadence of testing.
- **Local health department liaisons:** state staff who work with the LHDs for overall communication, testing and contact tracing

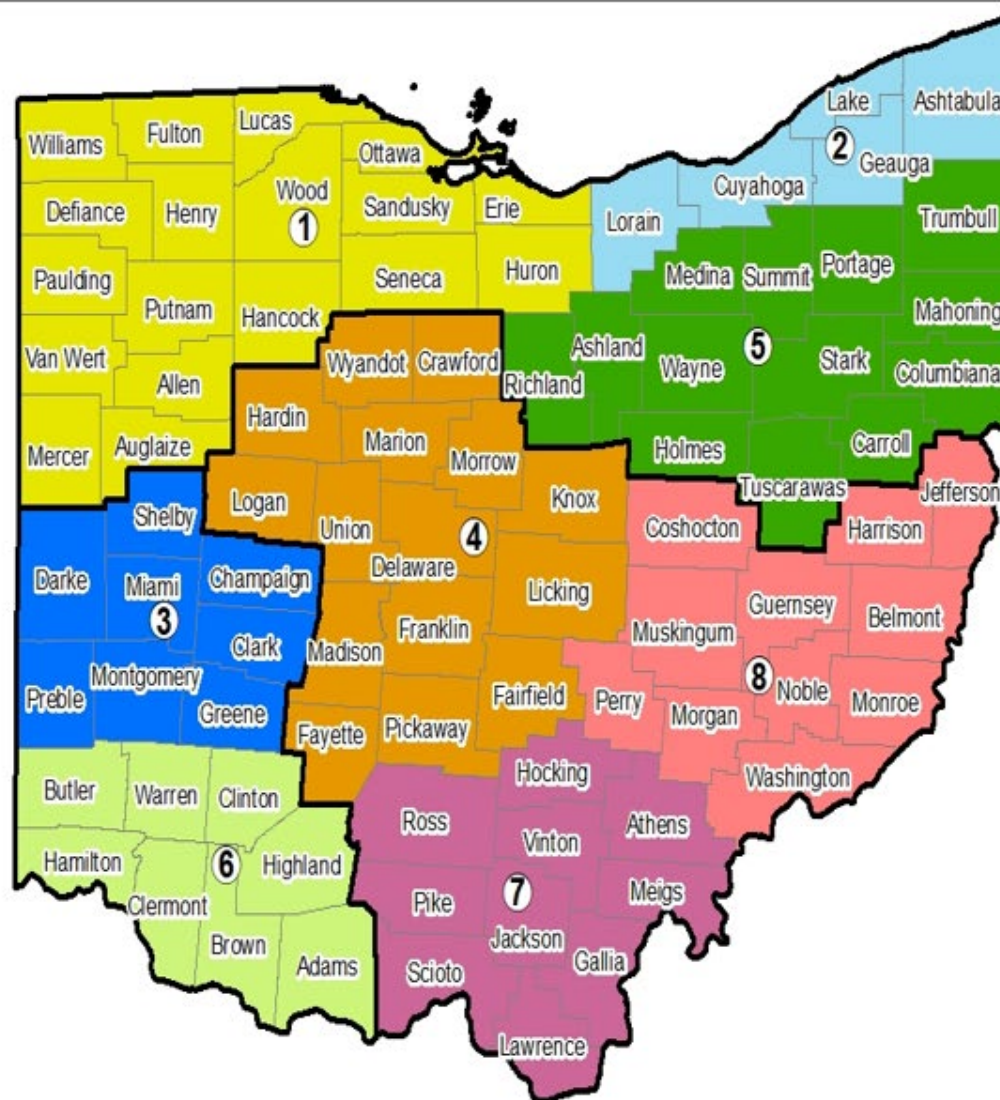


MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO



Department
of Health

Ohio COVID-19 Region Map



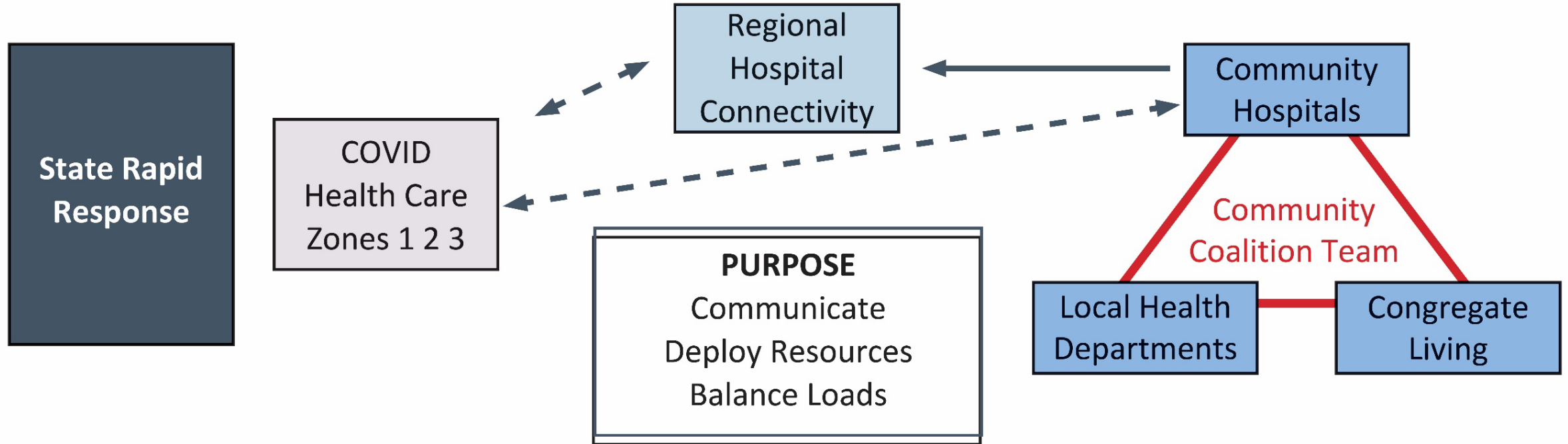
Zone 1 = Regions 1, 2, 5

Zone 2 = Regions 4, 7, 8

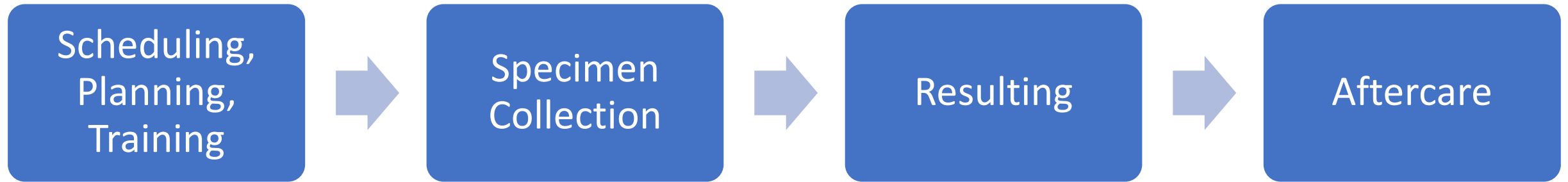
Zone 3 = Regions 3, 6

[Downloadable Map](#)

Local-Regional-Zone-State Connectivity



Resident Testing Process Overview



Resident Testing Process

- Facilities will perform the specimen collection/swabbing of all residents within nursing homes.
- The facility must educate the residents on the testing process, when they will be tested, and the importance of testing.
- Medical staff must wear appropriate PPE to perform specimen collection.
- Per their rights, residents may choose to not participate in testing.
- **Assigned labs for resident testing may differ from the lab a facility used for staff testing.**

Scheduling, Planning,
Training



Specimen Collection



Resulting



Aftercare

Scheduling and Planning Overview

- CCURT will provide an ordered list of facilities for resident testing. Dates will be added to identify the specimen collection/swabbing date and a pick-up ready date.
- A new survey will be used for resident testing. All facilities must complete this survey by July 24, 2020 to inform the the scheduling process by:
 - Providing the number of residents to be tested, or
 - Opting out of the state-supported process.

Scheduling, Planning,
Training



Specimen Collection



Resulting



Aftercare

Ordering COVID-19 Tests

- COVID-19 tests for screening and diagnostic purposes must be ordered by a physician or other appropriate medical professional acting under their scope of practice.
- Physicians and other clinicians who order tests for residents and employees / staff will act within an appropriate standard of care.
- Testing can be ordered by the medical director at the facility, an advance practice nurse, or another appropriate clinician from a testing team, a hospital partnership, or other arrangement.
- The facility's medical director has responsibility for infection control and health surveillance, including for facility staff. The medical director can order testing for all staff in accordance with the Public Health Order and Ohio State Medical Board regulations. O.A.C. 3701-17-13(A)(1)(b)(5).

Scheduling, Planning,
Training

Specimen Collection

Resulting

Aftercare

Lab Requisition Processes

- Process & forms based on assigned lab:
 - Lab will outreach with steps to access the online system
- Order forms must be completed electronically – ALL fields must be completed, including insurance.
- Maintain records of medical orders.

The screenshot shows a 'New Lab Order' form with the following details:

- Patient Information:** Test, Patient, 111 North Rd, Apt 2, Norristown, PA 19404. Patient ID: 2233445, DOB: 01/01/2010, Sex: M. An arrow points to the Patient ID field.
- Lab and Client:** Lab: TMP - Quest Diagnostics - North Florida. Client: TMP90210-Tampa 90210 (TMP90210). An arrow points to the Lab dropdown menu.
- Order Cart:** A blue circle with the number '1' and the text 'Order Cart'.
- Test Selection:** A search bar 'Search for a test' with a dropdown menu set to 'Recent-Practice'. The dropdown shows 'BRCAVantage(R), Rearrangements' (91888) and 'CBC (includes Differential and Platele...' (6399). An arrow points to the 'CBC' test.
- Diagnosis Selection:** A search bar 'Search for a diagnosis' with a dropdown menu set to 'Recent-Practice'. The dropdown shows 'Hairy leukoplakia' (K133), 'Tinea nigra' (B361), 'Lobular carcinoma in situ of right bre...' (D0501), and 'Neoplasm of uncertain behavior of pit...' (D442). An arrow points to the 'Tinea nigra' diagnosis.
- Buttons:** 'SAVE AS DRAFT' and 'SUBMIT ORDER'.

Scheduling, Planning,
Training



Specimen Collection



Resulting



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Training Overview

- The state lab team and/or commercial labs will provide training about using their lab portals
- CCURT is developing training materials for personnel who will conduct specimen collection
- Additional training and technical assistance regarding will be available through CCURT/Zone clinical leads regarding:
 - Infection control
 - Caring for residents with positive results

Scheduling, Planning,
Training



Specimen Collection



Resulting



Aftercare

Specimen Collection/Swabbing Overview

- Test kits will be provided to the facility prior to testing day.
- Prior to specimen collection/swabbing, staff will complete lab requisition forms.
- Facilities are responsible for ensuring all residents, have a base-line COVID-19 test.
 - If a resident is unavailable on the day of specimen collection/swabbing, facilities should ensure the resident is tested within three weeks of the testing date and should verify that they meet this requirement by sending a signed letter on the facility's letterhead to CCURT@odh.ohio.gov.

Specimen Collection

- Trained medical professionals will perform the specimen collection/swabbing.
- Clinical check list for Specimen Collection COVID-19 Tests will be available on Ohio's [Testing in Nursing Homes Website](#)
- Specimen collection/swabbing should be completed in pairs.
- Facility will have 24-hours to complete all collections and prepare for pick-up.

Coronavirus Disease 2019

Ohio | Department of Health

Clinical Check-List Specimen Collection for COVID-19 Test

The following checklist is developed to assist appropriate nursing home clinical staff in collecting specimens for a COVID-19 test. All nursing home resident testing will be utilizing anterior nares testing, which is the least invasive form of COVID-19 testing available. Testing staff and resident in Ohio's nursing facilities is one of many strategies being deployed in congregate care settings to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and save lives.

Prepare your patient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Briefly describe the test, the materials, process and timing for results<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Many patients are nervous about pain and length of time to complete the specimen collection.o It's appropriate to remind patients that the anterior nares test is not painful and can be accomplished in under 30 seconds.<input type="checkbox"/> Remind the patient that he/she can stop the collection at any time<input type="checkbox"/> Ask the patient to blow their nose, if possible<input type="checkbox"/> Give the patient ample time to ask questions, express concerns or inform you of special conditions or considerations
Preparing the collection station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Gather PPE<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Face mask, ideally a N95 masko Eye protectiono Gown



Scheduling, Planning,
Training



Specimen Collection



Resulting



Aftercare

Specimen Pick-Up

Specimens will be picked up and delivered to the lab using one of three possible solutions:

1. The ONG will pick up the specimens
2. A commercial courier will pick-up the specimens
3. The facility will contact a shipping company to schedule specimen pick-up and transport

The method of pick-up and additional information will be provided to each facility by the CCURT and/or ONG.



Resulting Overview

- While awaiting results
 - Continue COVID-19 infection control precautions.
 - Wear appropriate PPE.
 - Continue daily temperature and symptoms checks, mask-wearing and hand washing
 - Monitor residents, if they become symptomatic, they will need to be isolated.
 - Monitor staff, if they become symptomatic, they will ideally isolate at home.
- Sending of results
 - Lab sends individual-level positive and negative resident results back to facility
 - This may be by individual fax or through an online portal
 - Lab will report to ODH
 - Individual-level positives
 - Aggregate negatives

Scheduling, Planning,
Training



Specimen Collection



Resulting



Aftercare

Aftercare Overview

- Residents who are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms should continue to receive care in place when clinically appropriate.
- Zone clinical leads, LHDs, and local hospital partners can assist facilities with reacting to positive results.
- The facility should follow ODH's [Criteria for COVID-19 Positive Skilled Nursing Facility Patient Transfer and Admission to Acute Hospital](#) if a higher level of care is needed.
- If a hospital level of care is not required and the facility determines it cannot meet the resident's needs at the location, the facility may also consider transferring residents who need to be isolated to a Health Care Isolation Center (HCIC).
- Follow ODH's Guidance for [Discontinuing Transmission-Based Precautions](#).

Scheduling, Planning,
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Specimen Collection



Resulting



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Residents with Positive Results

- Detailed guidance regarding caring for individuals with COVID-19 within congregate care settings can be found in the [LTSS Toolkit](#).
- Facilities should have a plan in place on cohorting infected residents. (e.g., before they test they need to know how they will deal with test results).
- If possible, cohort residents in 3 groups:
 - Infected,
 - Exposed/quarantined, and
 - Enexposed/unaffected residents.
- Facilities should also have a plan in place to ensure symptomatic staff are isolated and allowed to [return to work](#) guidance.
- If possible, staff should also be cohorted (i.e., staff only work with one of the 3 groups of residents).
 - If this is not possible, staff should perform work from unaffected to exposed/quarantined to infected groups of residents (least to most impacted by COVID-19).

Scheduling, Planning,
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Specimen Collection



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Bridge Team Resources

- CCURT [Bridge Team Guidance Document](#)
- Tiers of staffing support:
 1. Resource listing, various types of expertise
 2. Pool of staff, includes some pre-vetting
 3. Enhanced staff availability for critical situations

Tiers 1 & 2 will be paid for by the NF, similar to normal staffing

Scheduling, Planning,
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Specimen Collection



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Health Care Isolation Centers

	Quarantine Beds	Isolation Beds	Combined Beds
Zone 1	63	154	217
Zone 2			
Zone 3	29	71	100

Total of 13 HCICs approved

HCIC Update

Guidance Documents

- [HCIC Billing Guidance](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- *Rule* [5160-3-80](#)

Providers interested in becoming an HCIC for providing quarantine and/or isolation NF services: contact ODH at liccert@odh.ohio.gov

CCURT Technical Assistance Leads:

Zone 1:

- James.Hodge@odh.ohio.gov

Zone 2:

- Rebecca.Sandholdt@odh.ohio.gov

Zone 3:

- Julie.Evers@medicaid.ohio.gov

Hospital Technical Assistance Coordinators:

Zone 1:

- Sean Cannone, DO Sean.Cannone@UHhospitals.org
- Alice Kim, MD KIMA@ccf.org

Zone 2:

- John Weigand, MD jweigand@cog-med.com

Zone 3:

- Richard Shonk, PhD RShonk@healthcollab.org

Other FAQ

- **Residents who refuse testing**
 - Residents can refuse to be tested for COVID-19, per their resident rights
 - Records of residents that refuse testing must be maintained by facility and included in verification letter
- **Medical Director role and responsibility for orders**
 - See ordering slide
 - Warm handoff to usual source of care
- **Testing new hires**
 - The Order states nursing facilities shall require its employees to be tested
 - Forthcoming Guideline revision will include statement about new hires
- **Testing of contract, agency staff, including hospice:**
 - As part of its infection control activities, the facility may encourage or require these types of individuals who are not employees to participate in the facility's testing plan or obtain and verify their testing status

Concluding Remarks

Maureen Corcoran, Director, Ohio Department of Medicaid

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Miscellaneous

- Re-testing
- Reporting of results
- HHS distribution of diagnostic instruments to nursing homes

Resources

- [Ohio's Testing in Nursing Homes Website](#)
- CCURT@ODH.OHIO.GOV
- www.coronavirus.ohio.gov



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