

Ohio Department of Health

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor
Lance Himes, Interim Director

August 26, 2020

Ursel J. McElroy, Director

Dear Ohio Assisted Living Administrators:

Thank you for your partnership in the newly established COVID-19 testing process for assisted living facilities.

We were recently notified of testing data inconsistencies at a small number of assisted living facilities. As you are all aware, each COVID-19 test result has a significant impact on the life of both the tested individual, as well as those around them (family, co-workers, healthcare professionals).

Therefore, we have initiated a review to evaluate the results of saliva-based PCR tests performed recently at assisted living facilities. While we undergo review, we will pause the saliva-based PCR testing schedule for facilities. Similarly, we will pause on reflecting testing data for your facility on the Ohio Department of Health long-term care facility dashboard until we complete the analysis.

For facilities that received results, we ask that you follow the established CDC protocols based on your test results. If you are currently scheduled for testing, we ask that you await further instructions following our review. We plan on completing our review as quickly as possible.

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. We look forward to sharing the results of our review with you.

Sincerely,

Ursel J. McElroy

Director

Lance Himes
Interim Director