

May 6, 2021

Re: Updated Testing Guidance

Dear Assisted Living Administrator:

The [Director's Amended Order for the Testing of the Residents and Staff of all Residential Care Facilities](#) has been updated and we encourage you to review the document in its entirety. The Order specifies the following:

- Fully vaccinated staff in residential care facilities will no longer have to test routinely. Fully vaccinated refers to a person who is ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine.
- Unvaccinated staff in residential care facilities will test twice per week. Unvaccinated refers to a person who does not fit the definition of fully vaccinated, including people whose vaccination status is not known.
- Regardless of vaccination status, strategic testing of staff and residents shall continue. Strategic testing may include, but is not limited to, testing staff and residents with known or suspected COVID-19 exposure; testing symptomatic staff and residents; or testing staff and residents as determined clinically necessary.

To support a smooth transition, facilities participating in the state-supported testing program are encouraged to view the upcoming testing schedule at <https://testingschedule.age.ohio.gov> and prepare to receive supplies beginning this week.

Finally, the Ohio COVID-19 Vaccine Maintenance Program makes it possible for new staff, new residents, and those earlier hesitant, to be vaccinated at all licensed nursing home and assisted living facilities in Ohio. Currently, 1,581 facilities are participating in the program along with 36 partner pharmacies. More than 1,600 clinics have been completed with an estimated 90% of the residents vaccinated. For details about this program, please visit www.aging.ohio.gov.

Sincerely,



Ursel J. McElroy
Director



Stephanie McCloud
Director