

June 13, 2023

Re: State-supported COVID-19 testing program update

Dear Administrators of Assisted Living Facilities and Nursing Homes,

Keeping Ohioans safer through COVID-19 testing has been core to Ohio's pandemic response strategy. Prioritizing at-risk Ohioans within long-term care facilities by making tests accessible and at no cost has been foundational to the success of the COVID-19 state-supported testing program.

With the end of the federal public health emergency, as well as considering declining rates of infection, the State of Ohio is making changes to the COVID-19 state-supported testing program.

The following will go into effect on July 1, 2023:

- Any facility that opted into the state-supported program **with** an active CLIA Certificate of Waiver on file in the [COVID-19 Care Center Portal](#) will be eligible to receive state-supported rapid antigen tests.
- Any facility that opted into the state-supported program **without** an active CLIA Certificate of Waiver on file in the [COVID-19 Care Center Portal](#) will **not** be eligible to receive rapid antigen tests.
- PCR tests will no longer be available through the state-supported program.

We are grateful to the state-contracted laboratories that have supported the program. They have graciously provided information on how facilities can elect to independently use their services:

- Industry Lab Diagnostic Partners: [Watch Video](#) | [View Document](#)
- MAKO Medical: [Watch Video](#) | [View Document](#)
- Quest Diagnostics: [View Document](#)

Please log in to the [COVID-19 Care Center Portal](#) soon to update your profile, verify your CLIA Certificate of Waiver status, and select your testing option. Facilities will automatically default into a plan based upon their CLIA Certificate of Waiver status on July 1, 2023. No action is needed if you are opted out of the program. A [user guide](#) to assist is available.

You are encouraged to keep apprised of [CDC recommendations](#), [state reporting requirements](#), and the [Electronic Laboratory Reporting process](#). The [Regional Rapid Response Assistance Program \(R³AP\)](#) can answer questions on testing, vaccine, and infection prevention and control at 1-855-R3AP-ODA.

Sincerely,



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Director, Ohio Department of Aging



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