

Contact Nebraska ICAP at nebraskaicap@nebraskamed.com or at 402.552.2881

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**LOCAL HEALTH
DEPARTMENT
TRAIN THE
TRAINER FOR
LONG TERM
CARE**

**KEY TAKEAWAYS
AND RESOURCE
LIST**

**WEEK 6:
COVID-19
TESTING IN THE
LONG-TERM
CARE SETTING**

Key Takeaways:

- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests detect viral RNA of COVID-19 while Antigen tests detect viral antigens of COVID-19.
- Antigen tests are commonly used as a Point of Care (POC) testing option.
- The Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) Act oversees all the special considerations for POC testing in a LTCF.
- Special considerations for space, infection control and training must be considered for a facility to apply for a CLIA waiver and have POC testing.
- Specimen collection for staff and residents differs slightly, make sure to review the CDC recommendations for each.
- Full COVID-19 PPE is needed for specimen collection during COVID-19 testing.
- Outbreak testing should be started once a case of COVID-19 case has been identified and repeated every 3-7 days (2x per week) until no new cases are identified for 14 days.
- Monitoring testing frequency is determined by county positivity: Low (<5%)/ 1x per month, Medium (5-10%)/ 1x per week, High (>10%)/ 2x per week.
- Follow the most current CDC "Considerations for Interpretation of Antigen Tests in LTCF" to determine the need for confirmatory PCR testing when using an Antigen POC test.

Resource List:

1. CDC Antigen Testing Guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/resources/antigen-tests-guidelines.html>
2. AACC Point of Care Versus Lab Based Testing: <https://www.aacc.org/publications/cln/articles/2016/july/point-of-care-versus-lab-based-testing-striking-a-balance>
3. CLIA Waiver FAQ and Application: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/ivd-regulatory-assistance/clia-waiver-application>
4. CDC Nursing Home Testing: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/nursing-homes-facility-wide-testing.html>
5. CMS QSO 20-38-nh includes testing requirements and frequency: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-38-nh.pdf>
6. CDC Considerations for Interpretation of Antigen Tests in LTCF: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/hcp/nursing-home-testing-algorithm-508.pdf>