



GREATER NEW YORK HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ASSOCIATION

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As you may be aware CMS has initiated a Federal program to deliver point of care COVID-19 antigen testing equipment to many facilities across the nation. We have requested NYSDOH provide additional guidance on the use of the antigen testing. The department has indicated it is working on releasing guidance. Attached please find the CMS FAQs for testing.

Important things to be aware of: The two antigen tests being sent are the Quidel Sophia and /or the BD Veritor system . Training information is sent by the manufacturer on these systems as staff have to be trained in use. **CMS recommends facilities follow state guidance we will be sure to let you know as soon as NYS DOH provides guidance.** Facilities may require CLIA waiver to include point of care testing if you do not already have. Reporting of tests results is a requirement thru HERDS and NHSN.

The CDC has also updated recommendations for using Antigen testing Reporting (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/resources/antigen-tests-guidelines.html>). Recommendations include using this testing within 5 days of symptoms as after this levels of virus may not be detected. Additionally facilities need to consider infection prevalence (7 day rolling average) in the community and residents clinical presentation to determine if PCR testing may be needed in those with symptoms that have negative Antigen testing. GNYHCFA has obtained a list of member facilities that are designated to receive Point of Care Testing Equipment. Please contact the Association if you need additional information and/or email nursinghometesting@heath.ny.gov. CMS will also be issuing further requirements for resident and employee testing during outbreaks and based on community transmission. We will keep you updated as additional information is released. Additionally, CMS has released Nursing Home Infection Prevention Training that can be accessed at <https://qsep.cms.gov/welcome.aspx>. CMS has NOT announced that this is the training will be the training affiliated with the additional CARES Act reimbursement. We will provide updates as soon additional CMS information is released. The CMS Targeted COVID-19 Training for Frontline Nursing Home Staff & Management is available now, with five specific modules designed for frontline clinical staff and 10 designed for nursing home management. The training will be available on the CMS [Quality, Safety & Education Portal](#).