

Recently the NYSDOH has released several advisories regarding Employee Covid 19 testing. Last week facilities submitted their testing plans, via HERDS survey, to meet the requirement for twice weekly employee testing is under Executive Order 202. 30. On May 18, 2020, NYS sent deliveries **of test kits and PPE including N95 masks** to assist initiating Employee Testing programs. In addition, facilities received a State coordinated lab listing by region/facility with lab capacity for testing (see attached). Facilities can use designated lab, or another lab if you have an existing contract with them.

We have attached the NYSDOH training for swab collection as well as a competency tool for nasal pharyngeal (NP) swab collection. Please be aware that NP swabs cannot be used for nasal or oral swab collection. Be sure to work with your lab and note what type of swabs you have to perform testing to ensure accurate and safe collection. Please ensure follow up with facility Medical Director, DON and Infection Preventionist to review policy/procedures for administering testing including staff information as well as the tracking of results.

The following are acceptable specimens as per the CDC:

- A nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen collected by a healthcare professional; or
- An oropharyngeal (OP) specimen collected by a healthcare professional; or
- A nasal mid-turbinate swab collected by a healthcare professional or by a supervised onsite self-collection (using a flocked tapered swab); or
- An anterior nares (nasal swab) specimen collected by a healthcare professional or by onsite or home self-collection (using a flocked or spun polyester swab); or
- Nasopharyngeal wash/aspirate or nasal wash/aspirate (NW) specimen collected by a healthcare professional.

Additional information can be found: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>. **Please be sure to check with your diagnostic laboratory to determine which specimens are appropriate for the tests they offer.**

An addendum: Please see the attached from NYSDOH that was received after we sent our communication.

Additionally, we would like to inform **NYC Facilities** that they can request testing kits from NYC EM. Facilities are to complete the NYC EM Request form (attached) in its entirety and write in the request on page 2. Please return the completed form to GNYHCFA and we will process the request.

Thank you.