

## **Details for Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Residences and Rest Homes (Facilities) to allow for in-facility testing of residents and staff.**

Mass Department of Public Health Website:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-testing>

There is a section for LTC facilities and a linked document that has the process and number to contact to request it.

## **Mobile Testing at Long Term Care and Assisted Living Residences**

The Department of Public Health, in partnership with the Massachusetts National Guard, and the State Public Health Laboratory in conjunction with the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard is operating a program for Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Residences and Rest Homes (Facilities) to allow for in-facility testing of residents and staff.

Prior to this program, if a resident in a Facility was exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, they needed to leave their facility to get tested. This exposes them to even greater risk and can overwhelm emergency rooms and clinics.

The Mobile Testing Program allows for safe, onsite, sample collection by trained personnel from the Massachusetts National Guard. Samples collected from residents are transported directly to State Public Health Laboratory, which works with the Broad Institute to prioritize these samples for testing.

Facilities can expect to receive testing results in approximately 2 days from when the samples are collected, which will allow staff to more quickly make the required changes to care that will help to mitigate the spread of the virus.

It is recommended that if there is suspicion of COVID-19 in the building, facilities order tests for their entire building, both residents and employees. Testing of all asymptomatic and symptomatic residents and staff can only occur once to set a baseline. However, the facility may request further testing for symptomatic individuals on an ongoing basis.

For more information, see the [Mobile Testing Program Overview](#). Specimens submitted for testing require the [COVID-19 Specimen Submission Form](#).