



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
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**Memorandum**

**TO:** Nursing Home and Rest Home Administrators

**FROM:** Elizabeth Daake Kelley, MBA, MPH  
Director, Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality

**SUBJECT:** Antigen Rapid Point of Care COVID-19 Testing for Long-Term Care (LTC) Facility Visitors

**DATE:** April 4 2022

In order to promote safe visitation in the Commonwealth's long-term care (LTC) facilities, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is pleased to offer additional visitor testing resources to LTC facilities. This memorandum provides information on how to use and request iHealth COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Tests for visitor testing and distribution to visitors.

The iHealth COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Tests test received Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in December 2021. The test is performed on a nasal swab and delivers results in just 15 minutes.. Further information about the proper use of the iHealth COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests can be found on the package insert, or on the manufacturer's website: <https://ihealthlabs.com/> and [on the FDA website](#).

LTC facilities should store iHealth COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test in a dry location between 36-86 °F (2-30 °C). They should ensure all test components are at room temperature 65-86 °F (18-30 °C) before use. The COVID-19 Test Card inside the foil pouch should be used within 1 hour after opening. The iHealth® COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test is stable before the expiration date marked on the packaging. Tests with expiration dates on or before September 29, 2022 may be used for an additional three months past the expiration date stamped on the box; more information may be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/covid-19-self-test-at-home-instructions-graphic>

LTC facilities should distribute iHealth COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Tests in unopened boxes of two tests per box to visitors to promote safe visitation, or, if requested by the visitor, administered upon arrival at the facility. These tests are not intended for use by staff or residents, including broad scale asymptomatic testing of staff and residents when there are no resident or staff cases in the facility.

If a visitor reports to the LTC facility that they have a positive iHealth COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test, the LTC facility should advise the visitor to isolate at home and follow up with their health care provider.

It is the responsibility of the LTC facility to ensure that any staff administering tests have completed the necessary training requirements and can demonstrate competency. Staff administering tests must change gloves between handling of specimens and should refer to [DPH Comprehensive PPE Guidance](#) for further information regarding the proper use of PPE.

LTC facilities that receive any iHealth COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests **do not** need to report test results to the DPH's Bureau of Infectious Diseases and Laboratory Sciences (BIDLS) because these tests are over the counter tests and do not require a facility to have a CLIA certificate of waiver to administer or distribute to visitors.

### **How to Request:**

Maximum order volumes for LTC facilities requesting iHealth COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Tests from DPH are calculated based on the number of licensed beds at each facility. LTC facilities are permitted to receive a one-time distribution of up to twelve tests (2 tests per box) per licensed bed. Facilities may only request tests once.

In order to request iHealth COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Tests, LTC facilities should complete the [survey](#) no later than April 15, 2022 found at the following link:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfA6yfHomtI8ICeS0jlsWOr854tYs5OwyAD3KkwJExLSVQIg/viewform>

Delivery timelines may vary based on DPH delivery capacity. LTC facilities should expect to receive requested test kits within two weeks of a request being submitted.