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Memorandum

TO: Assisted Living Residence Executive Directors
FROM: Secretary Elizabeth Chen
SUBJECT: Antigen Rapid Point of Care COVID-19 Testing for Assisted Living Residences (ALRs)
Visitors
DATE: April 4, 2022

In order to promote safe visitation in Assisted Living Residences (ALRs), the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is pleased to offer additional visitor testing resources to ALRs. 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](#).

ALRs 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>

ALRs 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 residence. 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 residence.

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

It is the responsibility of the ALR 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.

ALRs 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 residence to have a CLIA certificate of waiver to administer or distribute to visitors.

How to Request:

Maximum order volumes for ALRs requesting iHealth COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Tests from DPH are calculated based on the number of resident units at the ALR. ALRs are permitted to receive a one-time distribution of up to twelve tests (2 tests per box) per resident unit. ALRs may only request tests once.

In order to request iHealth COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Tests, ALRs should complete the [survey](#) no later than April 15, 2022 found at the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfA6yfHomtI8ICeS0jlsWOr854tYs5OwyyAD3KkwJExLSVQIg/viewform>

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