

HAMMOND-HENRY HOSPITAL
LONG TERM CARE LIVING CENTER (HHH-LTC) COVID-19 TESTING POLICY

PANDEMIC POLICY: HHH-LTC residents and employees will be tested for COVID-19 by use of an approved and available testing strategy

OBJECTIVE/PURPOSE: To assure the safety of residents and staff, and to establish a baseline assessment for reporting and early identification of COVID-19 among the HHH-LTC population and employees.

RESPONSIBLE PARTIES: Administration
Interdisciplinary Team

- Medical Director
- Patient's/Resident's Attending Physician
- Patient's/Resident's families
- Department Managers/Staff
 - Lab, LTC, Rehab, Social Services, Dietary, plant services

PROCEDURE:

1. HHH-LTC will obtain a verbal or written consent for all residents to be tested initially. Written or verbal documentation will then also be obtained as a standing consent for all necessary COVID-19 testing in the future.
2. HHH-LTC residents, employees, and all ancillary services will be required to test for COVID-19 at a specified date that is within accordance with IDPH guidelines.
 - a. Personnel that are not available or not working within the unit regularly will be required to test prior to fulfilling any duties on the unit after the original test date.
 - b. Employees who refuse to be tested will not be allowed to return to HHH-LTC until they are tested. Refusal to test may lead to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. If an employee refuses testing in any capacity, they will be asked to attend a consultation session with HHH Human Resources.
3. Employees may then be tested periodically in accordance with IDPH guidance. Testing onset/stoppage will be driven by HCHD, IDPH and CMS guidance in order to sustain resident/employee safety and achieve reopening status. HHH may choose to start weekly testing earlier to be ahead of reopening status requirements—dependent on Medical Director and Administrative oversight.
 - a. Tests will be obtained by approved hospital employees with direction by Laboratory Dept and Dr. Ford.
 - i. Any missed weekly testing will require a test at the earliest possible date for the employee. These situations will be reviewed on a case by case basis and may be considered as a possible refusal to test – see 2b.
4. In the case that an employee is positive for COVID-19, that employee will enter return to work protocol consistent with HHH-LTC infection control policy and if they are working on the unit will be sent home with gloves and mask immediately with instructions to contact the respiratory clinic for education during their shelter in place.
 - a. Employees cleared for return to work will not need to retest for 8 weeks from date of clearance, consistent with guidance from IDPH webinar
5. In the case that a resident is positive for COVID-19, that resident will enter contact and droplet isolation restrictions consistent with HHH-LTC infection control policy and follow the HHH COVID-19 on HHH-LTC Policy.
 - a. Previously positive residents do not need to be retested unless they develop new symptoms or 8 weeks has passed since their discharge from contact/droplet precautions, consistent with guidance from IDPH webinar
6. In the case of a positive COVID-19 test among residents or employees at HHH-LTC, all residents and employees will be subject to consecutive COVID-19 testing until there have been 14 consecutive days without a new case being identified.
 - a. Residents will be tested in appropriate coordination with HHH-LTC and HHH Respiratory Clinic personnel between Sunday and Saturday of each week.
 - b. Employees will test during their first shift of the week. Or no later than Saturday of each week for those who do not have a weekly shift. For failure to complete weekly testing – See 2b.
 - c. Residents who refuse testing or are unable to test will be required to the greatest extent possible to stay in their room, required to wear masks when leaving their room, and follow transmission-based precautions consistent with HHH-LTC infection control policy in order to return to standard precautions.
7. Test logistics
 - a. Tests will be obtained by approved hospital employees with direction by Laboratory Dept and Dr. Ford. for all residents and employees.
 - i. Employees who have had testing at other sites may provide documentation of testing and results to HHH-LTC to qualify as their required testing as long as they are consistent with the minimum requirements by HHH-LTC
 - b. All testers and test handlers are trained appropriately by HHH Respiratory Clinic oversight (Dr. Donald Ford and Katie Sowder, APN) and/or HHH Laboratory management (Karrie Wetzel)
 - c. Lab results will be obtained, recorded and provided by HHH Laboratory or contracted laboratories (Lab Core) or potentially by IDPH labs in the case of an outbreak.
 - d. Dr. Remigijus Satkauskas, the HHH-LTC Medical Director or the primary physician of the resident will be oversight and ordering physician for all testing.
 - e. This policy has been communicated to Henry County Health Department and all results are being provided to NHSN and Henry County Health Department

OUTCOME: HHLTC will either sustain a COVID-19 free environment or successfully identify positive cases early and manage a COVID-19 outbreak on the floor with the best potential results for employees and residents.

ORIGIN The above policy is developed in accordance with CMS and IDPH guidance. Please reference links below for more information.

<https://illinois.webex.com/recording-service/sites/illinois/recording/2db342d0dbb74d5a97095e6191d8f9ab>

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-30-nh.pdf-0>

COVID-19 Testing Plan and Response Strategy For Long-Term Care Facilities – IDPH Email sent 6/9/20