

COVID-19 Testing in Congregate Living

Advocate Aurora COVID-19 Testing Guidance for Congregate Living: Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF), Assisted Living (AL), Inpatient Rehabilitation (IRF) and Long-Term Acute Care (LTCH) Discharge Placement

Situation: Given the recent modifications to our testing approach in response to the significant national testing shortage, it's important to reiterate key changes and provide additional testing guidance for congregate living.

Background: As access to COVID-19 testing supplies continue to be challenged, we are called to update our testing approach. Given that the situation is fluid, we will continue to evaluate and shift accordingly. Our approach is in line with CDC guidelines, state department of health recommendations and our Safe Care Promise and is endorsed by our Infectious Disease experts and medical leadership to ensure the safety of our patients and team members. Testing updates are described as follows.

Assessment: Discharge of patients to congregate settings will be placed in three categories: patients that are positive for COVID-19, patients that are being returned to congregate living and have previously tested negative, and patients that are being admitted to congregate living for the first time without known COVID-19 status.

Recommendation:

- All patients presenting from congregate living facilities that are being admitted to an Advocate Aurora Hospital should be tested on admission.
- **Patients who are discharging back to congregate settings who are asymptomatic and have had a negative test result on admission will need a current test (within the last 72 hours) prior to discharge to the congregate setting.** Sites may waive testing at hospital prior to congregate admission if congregate site is able to do rapid test upon admission.

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- Patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 (within the last 90 days) will not require additional testing if:
 - o patient is at least 10 days post symptom onset
 - o patient is afebrile for at least 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medications
 - o patient has improvement in other symptoms
- Patients who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days and have a new episode of symptoms after the original resolution will be retested.
- All patients being discharged to a congregate setting should be tested within 72 hours of discharge. This applies to both returning patients and new patients.

COVID-19 UPDATE



- Testing for discharge clearance should be processed through ACL Labs.

Test to order in EMR if need result prior to 24 hours:

Cerner: Rapid SARS-COV-2 by PCR (SCVPCR) Additional ref Cerner limited use rapid Covid 19 order

Epic: Rapid On-Site COVID-19 Test

Resources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-hospitalized-patients.html>

CDC Recommendations for Discontinuing Transmission Based Precautions

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