

SHL Testing Guidance for Long Term Care Facilities (Nursing Homes)

Testing Submission and Reporting Process

COVID-19 test requests should be submitted under the order of the LTC Facility Medical Director. The LTC Facility Medical Director is responsible for ongoing care and medical oversight of patients who test positive. Samples should be submitted to the State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL) through the laboratory that the LTC Facility and Medical Director normally uses for routine resident testing.

The laboratory should request SHL courier transport through the SHL/CDS courier’s online sample tracking procedures. Patient results will be provided through the laboratories normal reporting procedures. SHL’s Test Request Form (TRF) has a field for a second facility reporting. The submitting lab will enter the LTC information on the TRF. If a Long Term Care facility calls SHL for a result, SHL can provide a verbal result directly to them over the phone. SHL will mail a hard copy of the final report to the Long Term Care Facility when it is designated as a “second facility” of the TRF. The submitting laboratory is also responsible for communicating results back to the LTC facility, because they have more immediate access to results via the SHL web portal.





Specimen Collection Kits

Long Term Care facilities may order up to 6 specimen collection kits from SHL or obtain supplies via their routine reference laboratory. If ordering through SHL, complete the order form at

< <http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms/clinicalkit.xml> >

Specimen Packaging and Delivery

SAMPLE PACKAGING

<p>1) After specimen collection, place the nasopharyngeal swab into the viral transport medium tube. Make sure that cap is sealed tight.</p>		<p>2) Place the tube and absorbent pad into the first biohazard bag.</p>		<p>3) Label the second biohazard bag with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your facility name• COVID-19	
<p>4) Place the first biohazard bag inside the second.</p>		<p>5) Refrigerate the sample until it is transported.</p> <p>The Test Request Form will be completed by the submitting facility (see “Test Submission” above)</p>			