



## Group A and B Congregate Care Facility SARS-CoV-2 Response FAQs

### Outbreak Definition:

- Maine CDC now defines a SARS-CoV-2 outbreak as “5 or more people who have been in-person at a facility with confirmed or probable COVID-19 within a 14-day period.”
  - **Confirmed:** At least 5 total positive cases (resident [*healthcare onset*] + staff) in 14 days, with at least one PCR positive in mix, PER UNIT/DEPARTMENT.
  - **Probable:** At least 5 total positive cases (resident [*healthcare onset*] + staff) in 14 days, all cases are results based on antigen testing, no PCR results available, PER UNIT/DEPARTMENT.
- Regardless of outbreak status, at the identification of a positive case a facility should continue with their internal response of an exposure investigation with close contact identification, testing, instituting quarantine of patients or work restrictions of HCWs when indicated. See [resources](#) below for guidance and tools.

### Testing reporting requirements for state:

- Any facility conducting point-of-care SARS-CoV-2 testing shall report data for all testing completed, for each individual tested, within 24 hours of results being known or determined, on a daily basis to the state, per HHS CARES Act.
  - For CMS-certified long-term care facilities (*skilled nursing and/or nursing facilities*), the CDC- and CMS-preferred pathway is to submit data via CDC's NHSN. Test data submitted to NHSN will be reported to the state health department. (*Note: This is in addition to the CMS reporting requirement for aggregate reporting [at least weekly] of the total number of positive staff and the total number of positive residents, etc.*)
  - Other types of LTC facilities should fulfill the HHS CARES Act reporting requirement using Red Cap.
    - Any facility receiving SARS-CoV-2 testing supplies from the state, which are provided through the HHS CARES Act, shall report both positive and negative test results.

### Testing Reporting and Supplies:

- For a facility to receive testing supplies they need to report all SARS-CoV-2 positive and negatives.
- If a facility is not receiving testing supplies through state, it is preferred that both positive and negative results be reported but only required to report positives.

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Governor

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**Reporting positive cases of a healthcare worker or resident/patient:**

- Facilities should report to Maine CDC by calling 1-800-821-5821 at the identification of 5 total positive cases (resident [healthcare onset] + staff). As resources allow, an outbreak investigator will be assigned for review.
- At the identification of a positive case facilities should continue with their internal response of an exposure investigation with close contact identification, testing, instituting quarantine of patients or work restrictions of HCWs when indicated. See [resources](#) below for guidance and tools.

**When can testing through HETL be utilized?**

- As resources allow and in consultation with an Outbreak Investigator, HETL testing may be considered when a facility has reached outbreak status.

**What guidance should a facility follow:**

- Requirements for federally certified healthcare facilities are generally more stringent than requirements for Assisted Housing facilities (*i.e., CMS and U.S. CDC healthcare/nursing home guidance*), but given the current prevalence of COVID-19, Assisted Housing facilities should follow the more stringent guidance to the greatest extent possible.

**Resources:**

- Maine CDC HAI Website: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/hai/resources.shtml>
- Division of Licensing and Certification Website: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/dlc>
- U.S. CDC SARS-CoV-2 Infection Prevention and Control Guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>
  - U.S. CDC SARS-CoV-2 Nursing Home guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/nursing-home-long-term-care.html>
- U.S. CDC Staffing Strategies at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/mitigating-staff-shortages.html>
- CMS QSO 20-38: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-38-nh-revised.pdf>
- CMS QSO 20-39: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-39-nh-revised.pdf>

***Note: guidance is subject to change***

*Last Updated: 1/21/22*