

# COVID-19 Testing and Guidance for Nursing Homes

Justin Blanding, MPH | Senior Epidemiologist

Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Response Section

## Overview

- KDHE reporting requirements
- Percent positivity demo
- Common questions and answers



## KDHE Reporting Requirements

- Point of Care (POC) testing (e.g., Abbott BinaxNOW, Quidel Sofia, BD Veritor)
  - CMS-regulated facilities report all POC results in NHSN
  - Only report to KDHE if unable to report in NHSN

- Testing sent to reference lab

- Only report positive results
  - <https://diseasesere>
  - Phone call not required

- COVID-19 Deaths

- Send death notification by email or by phone call



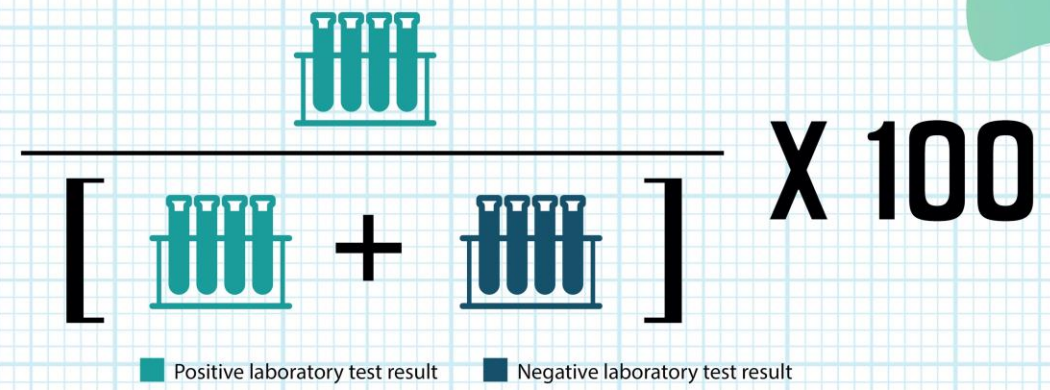
Report results within four hours

Report as contributing factor to death)

Report by email (kdhe.epihotline@ks.gov)

# COVID-19 Testing and Guidance for Nursing Homes

## HOW KANSAS CALCULATES PERCENT POSITIVITY FOR COVID-19 LABORATORY TESTS




$$\frac{\text{Positive laboratory test result}}{[\text{Positive laboratory test result} + \text{Negative laboratory test result}]} \times 100$$

■ Positive laboratory test result    ■ Negative laboratory test result

**TEST OVER TEST (USED BY CDC)\***

$$\frac{\text{\# positive tests}}{(\text{\# positive tests} + \text{\# negative tests})}$$

\*Kansas only counts one positive test per person, but there may be multiple negative tests per person as a person may be tested more than once.



Total laboratory tests are the number of PCR tests performed, not the number of individuals tested (i.e. unit of measurement for percent positivity is the **test**, not a person).

## Percent Positivity Demo



## Common Questions

- Are antigen positives included in case counts?
  - Yes, they are considered probable cases per CSTE/CDC surveillance definition.
- If a staff member is positive by antigen but then negative by PCR how is that handled or classified by KDHE?
  - Per CDC guidance, if a negative PCR result is collected within two days of a positive antigen they would be considered 'not a case'.
- During surveillance testing an asymptomatic worker is antigen positive. Do we have to test this person by PCR? If so, can that be done by the state or do we send to our private lab?
  - KDHE recommends reflexing asymptomatic positive antigen specimens to PCR before initiating outbreak testing. The PCR specimen can be sent to either KDHE or their private lab for confirmation.

# COVID-19 Testing and Guidance for Nursing Homes



Justin Blanding, MPH | Senior Epidemiologist  
Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Response Section  
Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics

Office (785) 296-1242 | Fax (877) 427-7318  
24/7 Epidemiology Hotline 877-427-7317  
[www.kdheks.gov/epi](http://www.kdheks.gov/epi)