

# LeadingAge Kansas COVID-19 Weekly Update December 18, 2020

[www.leadingagekansas.org/covid19](http://www.leadingagekansas.org/covid19)



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# COVID-19 VACCINE: ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

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A PRESENTATION FOR STAFF AND  
RESIDENTS IN POST-ACUTE AND  
LONG-TERM CARE



THE SOCIETY  
FOR POST-ACUTE AND  
LONG-TERM  
CARE MEDICINE™

## COMMON QUESTIONS WE WILL ADDRESS:

- How do we know the vaccine is effective and safe?
- Why should we trust the vaccine?
- Is there new technology being used and is that dangerous to me?
- What is an EUA and what does that mean for me?
- When and how long will I be protected?
- Will I still need to wear a mask?
- What are the expected side effects?
- What if I've already had COVID-19?
- Where should I look to get accurate information?



## WHY SHOULD I GET VACCINATED?

- Protect myself and my family
- Keep my residents safe
- Help stop spread in the community
- Set the example for others, including residents, families, co-workers, and the community-at-large

# ARE THE COVID-19 VACCINES SAFE?

- Safety is the most important priority in vaccine approval
- Most side effects occur within 6 weeks of vaccination. To be more cautious, the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) requires 8 weeks of safety monitoring of the COVID-19 vaccines
- Monitoring for safety will continue as the vaccine is distributed to the public
- To assess safety FDA typically advises that a minimum of 3,000 participants are included in the trial. The current COVID-19 vaccine trials include 30,000 to 50,000 participants

# HOW EFFECTIVE ARE THE COVID-19 VACCINES?

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	<b>Pfizer (BNT162b2)</b>	<b>Moderna (mRNA-1273)</b>
Efficacy Overall	95% protection from having an infection	94.1% protection from having an infection

**Similar efficacy with different race, ethnicity and age**

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# WHO WAS INCLUDED IN THE COVID-19 VACCINE TRIALS?

	<b>Pfizer (BNT162b2)</b>	<b>Moderna (mRNA-1273)</b>
Number of people enrolled	<b>Over 40,000</b>	<b>Over 25,000</b>
Race and ethnicity of participants	Total 30% racially diverse 10% black, 13% Hispanic	37% racially diverse 10% black, 20% Hispanic/Latino
Older adults	45% were 56-85 years	23% were >65 years


- **Notes:** Courtesy of Dr. Anuj Mehta, Data is accurate as of 11/18/2020. More information is constantly becoming available. Sub-group comparisons (e.g. comparisons about efficacy between races or age groups) may be less accurate due to smaller numbers. Sub-group numbers for the Pfizer vaccine are given for US participants with international percentages in parentheses.
- <https://www.pfizer.com/news/press-release/press-release-detail/pfizer-and-biotech-conclude-phase-3-study-covid-19-vaccine>
- <https://www.pfizer.com/science/coronavirus/vaccine>
- <https://investors.modernatx.com/news-releases/news-release-details/modernas-covid-19-vaccine-candidate-meets-its-primary-efficacy>
- [https://www.modernatx.com/sites/default/files/content\\_documents/2020-COVE-Study-Enrollment-Completion-10.22.20.pdf](https://www.modernatx.com/sites/default/files/content_documents/2020-COVE-Study-Enrollment-Completion-10.22.20.pdf)



# WHY SHOULD WE TRUST THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

- The FDA is using the same strict standards that it has for decades
- No steps are “skipped”
- **Two independent advisory committees** are reviewing the results. Members and experts of these committees have no conflict of interest and are not associated with any vaccine manufacturers
  1. The Vaccine and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) that advises the FDA
  2. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) that advises the CDC

- An **Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)** for a vaccine is based on the need to use a vaccine quickly to save lives during a public health emergency
- EUA is a shorter process **but no steps are skipped in the safety evaluation process**
- The FDA will assess if the vaccine known and potential benefits outweigh the known and potential risks
- Two separate advisory boards (VRBPAC and ACIP) will also review the data and make recommendations
- **An EUA does NOT imply that the authorization was done too quickly or that the vaccine is not safe**



WHAT IS AN  
EUA AND  
WHAT DOES  
THAT MEAN  
FOR ME?

## HOW WAS THE VACCINE DEVELOPED SO QUICKLY?

Major reasons we were able to get these vaccines developed more quickly than usual include :

- Global effort with the world's leading scientists focused on a single task
- Nearly unlimited resources (money, knowledge, manpower, technology)
- A large pool of diverse adult volunteer trial participants

THE FIRST TWO  
COVID-19  
VACCINES

Both are mRNA vaccines

- Pfizer (BNT162b2)
- Moderna (mRNA-1273)

**They Do NOT contain COVID-19 virus**

## mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines

- mRNA technology is new in vaccine production but is already being used in cancer treatment. It has been studied for more than ten years.
- COVID-19 mRNA vaccines give instructions for our cells to make a **harmless piece** that looks like the “spike protein.” The spike protein is found on the surface of the COVID-19 virus.
- Our bodies recognize that this protein should not be there, so they build antibodies that will remember how to fight the virus that causes COVID-19 if we are infected in the future.



COVID-19 VACCINE IS mRNA  
VACCINE- WHAT IS THAT?

**Can mRNA vaccine give me COVID-19? NO**

**Can mRNA vaccine change my DNA? NO**

## WHEN AND HOW LONG WILL I BE PROTECTED BY THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

- Most of the vaccines are **2 doses**, 3-4 weeks apart
- Protection occurs **1-2 weeks after the second dose**
- We will most likely not know how long the vaccine will be protective once we receive it. We will know more as more time passes in the current research
- May need to have vaccine shots for COVID-19 on a regular basis (like the flu shot)



**WILL I STILL NEED TO  
WEAR A MASK?**

**YES !**

Similar to other vaccines, a large number of people in the community will need to get vaccinated before transmission drops enough to stop the use of masks

**WHAT  
SHOULD I  
EXPECT  
WHEN I GET  
THE  
VACCINE?**

## **THE VACCINE CANNOT GIVE YOU COVID-19!**

- You can expect to have short-term discomfort: fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever and pain at injection site after vaccination
- These reactions will last for 24-48 hours and are typically more pronounced after the second dose
- Side effects mean your body is doing its job and making antibodies (IT IS A GOOD THING)
- These side effects are normal, common and expected



## MOST COMMON SIDE EFFECTS

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BASED ON DATA FROM  
CLINICAL TRIAL OF PFIZER  
COVID-19 VACCINE

- Fever: 4-16%
- Fatigue 34-59%
- Headache: 25-52%
- Muscular pain: 14-37%

Side effects were more common after the second dose of the vaccine.

Reference: Data published in the New England Journal of Medicine:

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2034577>

WHAT  
SHOULD I  
EXPECT  
WHEN I GET  
THE  
VACCINE?

- **YOU MUST GET THE SECOND DOSE** because the vaccine will not protect you if only get one dose
- It is important to get the **SAME VACCINE** as the first dose

- It is safe to get the COVID-19 vaccine even if you have had COVID-19
- Even if you have had COVID-19, it is important to get vaccinated. It could give you longer or better protection against the disease
- Even if you have positive antibodies, you should get the COVID-19 vaccine

SPECIAL  
CIRCUMSTANCE

WHAT IF I  
ALREADY HAD  
COVID-19?

# WHERE SHOULD I LOOK TO GET ACCURATE INFORMATION?

It is important to get information from reliable sources (CDC, AMDA, medical directors, providers) **Social media is full of misinformation and opinions based on that misinformation**

**Here are some link to information:**

- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/covid-conversations/answering-questions.html>
- CDC: About COVID-19 vaccines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/about-vaccines.html>
- CDC: Provider Resources for COVID-19 Vaccine Conversations with Patients and Answering Patients' Questions: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/covid-conversations/>

VACCINES ARE  
THE ONLY WAY  
TO CONTROL  
THE COVID-19  
PANDEMIC

- Everyone has to do their part and get vaccinated to get back to a normal life



# State Update

- Make sure to check the state PPE portal to spend all the dollars allocated to your nursing home, assisted living, homes plus accounts by December 30th.

<https://Kdads.ks.gov/order-PPE>

# Federal Update

- LeadingAge National [FAQ on COVID vaccine](#) \*updated daily\*
  - EEOC guidance added
- CMS [holiday guidance](#) still in effect
- CDC plans to release vaccine toolkit for long term care next week
- CDC releasing FAQ for pharmacy partnership today? Webinars next week?
  - Continue to work on independent living resident question
- CDC updated guidance on [ventilation in buildings](#)

# Federal Update

## CDC Vaccine Resources:

- [Post Vaccine Considerations for Healthcare Personnel | CDC](#)
- [Post Vaccine Considerations for Residents | CDC](#)
- [Importance of COVID-19 Vaccination for Residents of Long-term Care Facilities | CDC](#)
- [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine | CDC](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination website for healthcare professionals](#)
- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine webpage](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Requirements and Support | CDC](#)



# AMDA Vaccine Education Toolkit

- Free toolkit from AMDA (aka Society for PALTC) <https://paltc.org/COVID-19>
- **Checking the Pulse** If you have signed up with Walgreen's or CVS for vaccination, have they been in touch with you?

# LeadingAge Kansas Resource

## COVID-19 Safety for CNAs Training Series

1. COVID-19 101 and Self-Care
2. PPE for COVID-19
3. Respiratory Protection
4. Rights, Responsibilities, and Communication Tools
5. Put it all Together

[Click for more information or to register](#)

# LeadingAge Kansas Resource Coping with COVID

Free weekly interactive zoom calls for you and your staff with a licensed social worker to talk about and find ways to cope with our shared trauma

- November – February
- Mondays at Noon

[Register today!](#)

# LeadingAge Kansas Education

## New Webinar

### Clean Up Your Infection Control Practices

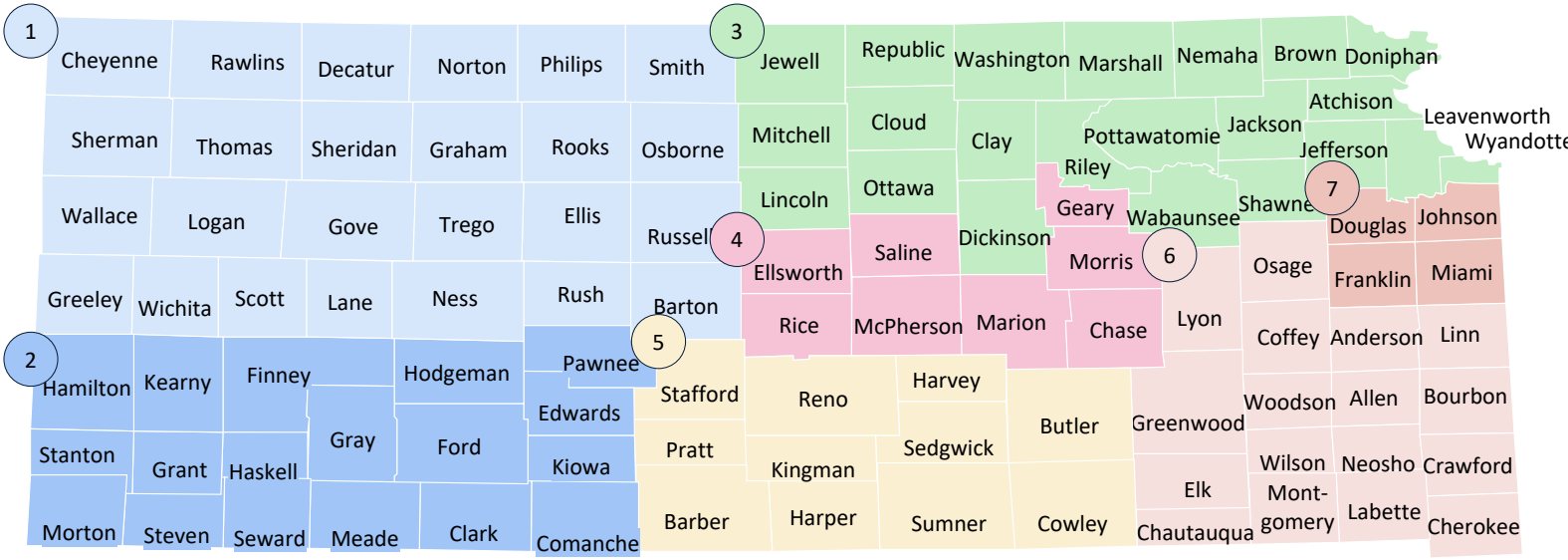
Monday, January 4 | 1:00 – 2:00PM | [Register Now](#)

Sign up early to save 20%

# COVID-19 Testing in State Licensed Only Adult Care Homes

Scott Brunner, Deputy Secretary, KDADS

# Geographic coverage of vendors, and process steps of reaching out to labs



## Process Steps

1. Identify your lab based on your county, using the allocations map to the left and the table below
2. If your assigned lab meets your sampling needs, please reach out to your lab to begin testing. See contact info and guidance for call with lab on next slides
3. If your assigned lab **does not** meet your **sampling needs**, the following options exist:
  - Clinical Reference Lab for self collected saliva kits (*No staff provided*)
4. For facilities assigned to NicUSA, if NicUSA cannot provide testing supplies, please reach out to KHEL for support
  - Please note that starting 12/21, KHEL will be switching over to a multiplex test that covers both COVID-19 and Flu A+B. This test will be administered via nasopharyngeal swab
5. Please contact us at [KDADS.reopening@ks.gov](mailto:KDADS.reopening@ks.gov) for further questions

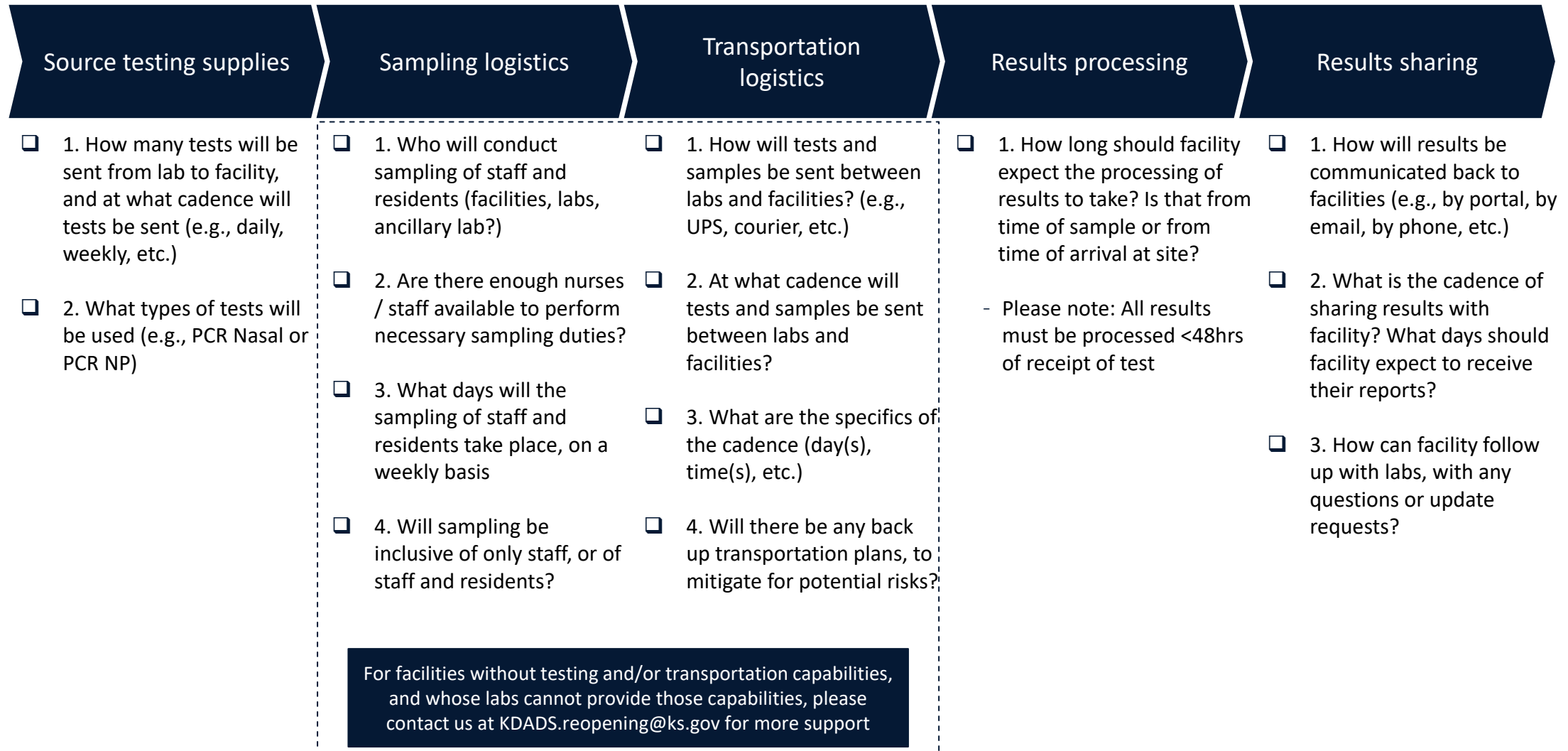
Region	Lab Name	Source Tests?	Sampling?	Transportation?	Process Results?	Types of Tests PCR Offered	In Lab Antigen?
1	NicUSA	Y	N	Y	Y	Saliva or Nasal Mid-Turbinate	Y
2	Wellhealth	Y	N	Y	Y	Saliva, Nasal Mid-Turbinate, Oral, or Pooled	Y
3	4M	Y	N	Y	Y	Nasal Swab	N
4	KU	Y	N	Y	Y	Nasal Swab	N
5	WSU	Y	N	Y	Y	Saliva or Nasal Mid-Turbinate	N
6	Quest	Y	N	Y	Y	Nasal Swab	N
7	MAWD	Y	N	Y	Y	Saliva, Nasal Mid-Turbinate, Nasopharyngeal	N
<b>Additional Labs</b>							
	Clinical Reference Lab	Y	Self collected	Y	Y	Saliva (Pooled, Un-pooled)	N
	KHEL	Y	N	Y	Y	Nasopharyngeal	N

# Lab Contact Information

Lab	Contact Name	Contact Email	Contact Number
NicUSA	Nate Hogan	nate.hogan@egov.com	816-726-2983
Wellhealth	Kelly Tennant Hisham Askandarani	<a href="mailto:Kelly.Tennant@Wellhealth.studio">Kelly.Tennant@Wellhealth.studio</a> <a href="mailto:Hisham@Wellhealth.studio">Hisham@Wellhealth.studio</a>	214-762-2034
4M	Mandy O'Rear	mandy@4mhealthlabs.com	913-222-5600
KU	Rick Couldry Lisa Muha	RCOULDRY@kumc.edu Lmuha@kumc.edu	913-945-7936
WSU	Debra Franklin	Debra.Franklin@wichita.edu	O: 316-978-5209 C: 316-213-4238
Quest	Tasha Thilking Matt Hamlin	<a href="mailto:Tasha.L.Thilking@questdiagnostics.com">Tasha.L.Thilking@questdiagnostics.com</a> <a href="mailto:matthew.j.Hamlin@questdiagnostics.com">matthew.j.Hamlin@questdiagnostics.com</a>	816-726-1994 630-475-4651
MAWD	Cory Morgan	cmorgan@mawdpathology.com	913.339.8575
Clinical Reference Lab	James Sotos	james.sotos@crlcorp.com	913-693-5499
KHEL	Myron Gunsalus Paul Harrison	kdhe.KHEL_HELP@ks.gov	

For any questions, please contact  
KDADS.reopening@ks.gov

# Adult Care Homes COVID-19 testing support | Lab outreach guidance





# Unified Testing Strategy, COVID-19 Testing With Labs FAQs [I/II]

Will long term care facilities have to cancel their current agreements with laboratories and replace them with the state contract?

- For Facilities: If you already have a contract in place with a lab, you can keep using your lab, however, the state will only cover tests from the following labs
  - 4M
  - Clinical Reference Lab
  - MAWD
  - NicUSA
  - Quest
  - Sinochips
  - University of Kansas
  - Wellhealth
  - Wichita State University

What if I have an existing contract with a state contracted vendor that hasn't been assigned to my county?

- If your existing contract is with one of our State contracted labs, then the tests will be free. Please contact your lab to ensure they are aware. If your existing contract is **not** with one of our State contracted labs, you do not have to switch labs, but tests will only be free from one of our State contracted labs

Does 4M still need to set up a purchase order (PO), before they can start testing with facilities?

- 4M has been set up with a PO and is immediately ready to start testing facilities. Please reach out to them to get the logistics set up as soon as possible

What is the expected turnaround time for these PCR tests?

- All labs must process results in <48hrs of receipt of test. Please reach out to [KDADS.reopening@ks.gov](mailto:KDADS.reopening@ks.gov) if results are taking longer to process

How should long term care facilities continue to use point of care antigen tests now that the state contracted labs are available?

- Facilities who are already using antigen tests for screening can use PCR tests in conjunction with antigen tests. Example uses are; as back up supply, replace antigen tests with PCR tests for screening, or use PCR tests as confirmatory tests of positive antigen tests

Do the tests at the state contracted labs require a physician's order?

- No, the state offered COVID-19 tests do not require a physician's order

# Unified Testing Strategy, COVID-19 Testing With Labs FAQs [II/II]

Is there a charge from the state contracted labs if tests need to be conducted for adult care home staff members or residents?

- No, there is no charge from the state for conducting tests of adult care home staff members or residents. Please note, not all our labs have the capability to conduct tests at adult care homes. If you do not have this capability and your vendor lab cannot support you, please contact us at [KDADS.reopening@ks.gov](mailto:KDADS.reopening@ks.gov) for further support

When will the contracted labs start accepting samples from long term care facilities?

- Contracted labs can start accepting samples immediately. Please contact your associated lab to set up a one-on-one call and schedule the logistics of your testing.

Are facilities responsible for reporting the test results from the contracted labs to KDHE?

- If using a contracted State lab, facilities do not need to report test result to KDHE. We will use reports from the contracted State lab, so no need for the facility to also report

Can we opt into this process later or are we required to engage vendors now?

- The process is optional, but we encourage setting up the logistics now to ease the onboarding process with vendors

Can we receive PCR tests to have on hand, to administer after a positive antigen test result?

- Yes, you can use the contracted labs to receive PCR tests to have on hand

Do facility nurses need to complete a training to be able to administer the PCR tests?

- No, facility nurses do not have to complete additional training to administer tests. If nurses want a refresher on administering tests, please refer to the following training video [\[Training Video Link\]](#)

If both lab and facility report positive cases, will that be a double count toward the facility?

- If using a contracted State lab, facilities do not need to report test result to KDHE. We will use reports from the contracted State lab, so no need for the facility to also report

Will tests through Cytocheck also be free?

- No, while they are affiliated with MAWD, Cytocheck is not one of our State contracted labs and as such, tests conducted with Cytocheck will not be covered by the State

For further questions, please contact us at: [KDADS.reopening@ks.gov](mailto:KDADS.reopening@ks.gov)

# Unified Testing Strategy, Executive Order FAQs for LTC Facilities

How frequently are we expected to test?

- LTC Facilities will be expected to test staff at a frequency consistent with CMS guidelines
- For counties with under 5% positivity rate, testing will be once a month
- For counties between 5 and 10% positivity rate, testing will be once a week
- For counties over 10% positivity rate, testing will be twice a week

Are we required to test both staff and residents?

- Facilities are only required to test staff but surveillance testing of residents as well is recommended. For both staff and residents, anyone with signs / symptoms of COVID-19 should be immediately tested

Who is defined as staff?

- Staff includes employees, consultants, contractors, volunteers, and caregivers

What resources exist for facilities to receive testing support? Is there more information we can access?

- KDHE & KDADS have contracted out labs to provide free COVID-19 testing for LTC facilities, throughout the State of Kansas. Please refer to Exhibit's A through C for more information

How will this executive order be enforced? Are there any next steps we should be aware of?

- KDADS will monitor the long term care testing status report to make sure that facilities are registered with the SPARK labs or self report that they are testing staff. Outreach to facilities will focus on making sure there are no obstacles to facilities accessing testing available in Kansas through the SPARK labs, the KDHE lab, or other sources.

How long will this Executive Order be in place?

- The Executive Order extends through the effective date of the statewide State of Disaster Emergency related to COVID-19 expires or the order is rescinded by the Governor.

If I am already testing my staff, how will this Executive Order impact my facility?

- If you are currently testing your staff at a frequency consistent with CMS guidelines, no changes will be needed. If you are not testing your staff at all a first step should be contacting one of the SPARK funded labs identified in Exhibit's A through C to start testing. To identify staff that could have COVID-19 but are not showing symptoms, performing surveillance testing is an effective way to keep COVID-19 from spreading within your facility.

# Unified Testing Strategy, Executive Order FAQs for LTC residents and families

How can we confirm whether the facility that is caring for our loved one is testing?

- The Long term care status report posted on the KDADS website (<https://www.kdads.ks.gov/ltc-covid-19-testing-strategy>) shows which facilities, by county, have reported their testing status. Loved ones can also call facilities directly and ask about the availability of testing and the process for testing.

Are residents also required to be tested on a regular basis, as a result of this Executive Order?

- Residents are not required to be tested on a regular basis

How does this Executive Order affect the status of my loved one?

- The Executive Order tries to control the spread of COVID-19 by identifying individuals that may have the virus but are not showing signs or symptoms. People without symptoms while positive for the COVID-19 virus can spread the virus to others. The Executive Order calls for more testing to identify those individuals in working in long term care settings to help reduce the spread and impact of COVID-19 on residents.

How will the state enforce the mandatory testing?

- KDADS will monitor the long-term care testing status report to make sure that facilities are registered with the SPARK labs or self report that they are testing staff. Outreach to facilities will focus on making sure there are no obstacles to facilities accessing testing available in Kansas through the SPARK labs, the KDHE lab, or other sources.

How does this Executive Order impact visitation?

- There is not a direct impact of the Executive Order on limits to visitation in long term care facilities. Some facilities may ask visitors to be tested before allowing them to visit or as a condition of being more open to visitors. Containing the COVID-19 pandemic is an essential step to returning to normal for visitation but implementing testing does not immediately lead to more visitation.

How do I report a facility that is not adhering to the testing mandates?

- If you know that a facility is not testing staff or is struggling to find resources to test staff and residents, please reach out to [KDADS.reopening@ks.gov](mailto:KDADS.reopening@ks.gov). If you are concerned about the care and treatment of your loved one, please contact the abuse and neglect hotline at **800-842-0078** between 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

# No Weekly Webinar

## December 25, 2020

## January 1, 2021

