

PROVIDER ADVISORY #2020-015
ENFORCEMENT GUIDANCE ON COVID-19 TESTING PURSUANT TO
RULE 65GER20-1, FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

EFFECTIVE DATE: AUGUST 6, 2020

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (Agency) is committed to ensuring the health and safety of its customers are provided for during this 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) state of emergency. The novel nature of this virus means there is little, but a growing amount, of information about the infectiousness of this virus.

In light of the dynamic nature of such information the purpose of this document is to provide guidance to specific Agency-licensed and Agency-operated facilities affected by a recently issued emergency rule.

On August 4, 2020, the Agency issued Rule 65GER20-1, *Florida Administrative Code*, mandating testing at specific Agency-licensed and Agency-operated facilities. Subsection (3) of this Rule states in part, “(c) Staff and household members who have been infected and recovered from COVID-19 are required to show two consecutive negative test results.”

As clarification on the documentation required for “recovered” mentioned in paragraph (3)(c), acceptable documentation includes, but is not limited to, two negative tests separated by at least 24 hours, or if such negative tests cannot be acquired, medical clearance consistent with CDC return to work guidance applicable to that setting.

Staff who have been infected and recovered from COVID-19 must provide valid medical documentation to the facility. Please refer to Return to Work Criteria for Essential Personnel with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 issued by the Centers for Disease Control. Examples of acceptable medical documentation may include but is not limited to two negative tests separated by at least 24 hours or medical clearance consistent with CDC return to work guidance. Once documentation is provided, these staff are no longer required to be re-tested per the emergency rule for a period of 90 days from the date of recovery.

The Agency continues to monitor the CDC Guidance for these protocols and will update those affected by the Emergency Rule when appropriate. For additional questions, please contact your Regional Operations Manager.