

## Mandatory COVID-19 Testing for APD Licensed Residential Facilities and State-Run Facilities

### ACTION REQUIRED

EFFECTIVE DATE: AUGUST 3, 2020

On August 3, 2020, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) adopted [Emergency Rule 65GER20-1](#). This rule requires staff at APD licensed residential facilities and state-run residential facilities to be tested for COVID-19 every two weeks, with testing resources provided by the state. Each staff member of the licensed or state-run residential facilities, and any waiver provider who is regularly delivering services physically inside these facilities are required to submit their individual test results to their employer/facility. The residential facility must keep copies of all testing documentation on site.

The Division of Emergency Management has contracted with a single testing vendor, Curative Labs, Inc., to distribute all testing kits by mail and/or courier directly to all facilities for staff testing. Curative is contracted to perform all laboratory analysis and must provide results within 48 hours of receipt.

The tests mailed by Curative allow for self-administered specimen collection and do not require a nurse or other health care professional to administer the specimen collection. Each facility will use a pre-addressed return shipping label to mail all completed tests to the administering lab who will collect and process all results.

### Testing

- All staff are required to be tested every 2 weeks.
- Testing kits provided by Curative are intended for staff testing only.
- Each facility will receive an initial shipment of testing kits to complete 2 rounds (one month) of testing for each staff member.
- All tests must be administered at the facility; testing kits are not to be taken home by staff.
- The facility is responsible for administration of the tests, must follow all instruction for processing, and must verify that all staff have been tested in

accordance with the emergency rule. Once testing begins, entrance to these facilities should not be allowed without proof of testing.

## **Welcome Email from Curative and Receipt of Testing Kits**

- Every facility will receive an email from Curative indicating anticipated date of arrival of testing kits, and date range to complete testing. A facility's failure to comply with specific shipping dates may affect processing time.
- The Curative email will provide a link to a video demonstrating how the test may be self-administered by staff.
- The Curative email will provide further instructions on how to:
  - Collect and observe the specimen sample
  - Register the person tested and barcoded specimen sample through the Curative web portal
  - Ship staff specimen samples to the lab
  - Contact information for Curative to address questions or request additional test kits for new employees.

Each facility administrator will be provided access to their testing information through the Curative web portal.

Each facility will receive test kits based on the number of staff provided to APD which should include all positions, all shifts, including any contract employees, as of August 3, 2020.

The emergency rule requires facilities use this state-provided testing for all staff, regardless of any other arrangements for testing. The emergency rule will be in effect for a period up to 90 days from adoption.

Educational information and contact information for technical support will be provided by Curative. Frequently Asked Questions will be provided to address additional questions. **APD, AHCA, and Curative will host conference calls starting this week** with residential providers to share information about this testing process. Testing information will be posted on APD's website at <https://apd.myflorida.com/covid19/covidtesting.htm>.