



When to get tested for COVID-19: Nursing Facility (NF) Staff, Residents, Visitors and Essential Caregivers

- **Fully Vaccinated:** a person who is ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine
- Staff and residents experiencing [signs or symptoms of COVID-19](#) must be tested, regardless of their vaccination status.
- Staff and residents who have had prolonged close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection, regardless of vaccination status, should have a series of two viral tests for COVID-19 infection (immediately after exposure AND 5-7 days after exposure).

Outbreak Testing
Staff and Residents:
 Upon identification of a single new case of COVID-19 infection in any staff or residents:

- all staff and residents should be tested,
- all staff and residents that tested negative should be retested every 3 days to 7 days,
- continue retesting until no new cases of COVID-19 infection among staff or residents is identified a period of at least 14 days since the most recent positive result.

Routine testing
Staff: includes all facility employees, consultants, contractors, volunteers, caregivers who provide care and services to residents on behalf of the facility, nurse aide students and nursing students.

The frequency of routine testing for COVID-19 is based on the county positivity rate. Routine testing requirements only apply to staff members who are NOT fully vaccinated.

Low	<5%	Once a month
Medium	5% -10%	Once a week*
High	>10%	Twice a week*

site at the nursing home or where off-site testing turnaround time is <48 hours. Refer to [QSO 20-38-NH](#) for more information.

Routine testing is not recommended for residents. Facilities may *consider* routine testing for residents who routinely leave the facility.

Visitor Testing
 Facilities may offer testing to visitors and essential caregivers, free of charge.
 Facilities cannot require a visitor or essential caregiver to be tested as a condition of visitation or to enter the facility, per the [NF Expansion of Reopening Visitation Emergency Rule](#).

See [Infection Control after Vaccination](#), [QSO 20-38-NH](#), and [QSO 20-39-NH](#) for more information. See [this decision tree](#) for more information on follow up protocol using antigen tests.