



500 Summer St NE E44

Salem, OR, 97301

Voice: 800-336-6016

Fax: 503-945-6873

TTY: 711

www.oregon.gov/OHA/HSD

Date: August 20, 2020

To: Home health providers
Hospice providers

From: Nathan Roberts, Traditional Programs manager
Medicaid Programs, Health Systems Division

Subject: Clarification on DHS-mandated COVID-19 testing in long-term care facilities

The Department of Human Services (DHS) has amended the definition of “Associated Staff” in [Oregon Administrative Rule 411-060-0005](#), who are subject to the [DHS COVID-19 testing requirements for licensed assisted living facilities, nursing facilities and residential care facilities](#).

- The amended rule now defines “associated staff” as staff providing direct care, environmental or food services to residents via a contractual relationship with the facility, effective August 10, 2020.
- This change means that home health and hospice staff who do not have, or whose employer does not have, a contractual relationship with the facility are no longer subject to the DHS COVID-19 testing requirements.

Why is this happening?

DHS made this change due to questions received from direct service providers about the COVID-19 testing requirements in [Oregon’s Long-Term Care Facility Testing Plan](#).

What should you do?

To learn more about this change, [please read the notice from DHS](#). A copy of this notice is also attached.

Please also be sure to follow current state and federal guidance regarding infection control to protect the vulnerable populations we serve. Refer to [the Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) Infection Control Guidance for Health Professionals](#), as well as guidance from OHA and CDC on [OHA’s COVID-19 page for health care providers](#) (look under “Healthcare Providers and Clinical Laboratories”).

Questions?

If you have any questions about this announcement, Jennifer Valentine at jennifer.b.valentine@dhs.oha.state.or.us.

Thank you for your continued support of the Oregon Health Plan and the services you provide to our members.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Human Services

Safety, Oversight and Quality

PO Box 14530, Salem, OR 97309

3406 Cherry Ave NE, Salem, OR 97303

Phone: (503) 373-2227

Fax (503) 378-8966

NF-20-113 - Provider Alert

Date: August 11, 2020

To: All Nursing Facilities
All Assisted Living Facilities
All Residential Care Facilities

RE: Long Term Care Facility Testing Rule
[Oregon Administrative Rule 411-060](#)

Dear Providers:

On August 10th, we amended the emergency rule related to testing in nursing facilities, residential care facilities and assisted living facilities. In summary, the changes are as follows:

- Modified the definition of “Associated Staff” to only include individuals providing direct care, environmental services and food services via a contractual relationship with the facility.
- Removed all references to prior authorization of testing providers.
- Clarified that private rooms/quarantining should be used for new admissions to the extent the facility’s capacity/census permits private rooms to be used.

The full rule may be accessed [here](#):

The Department will reimburse associated staff testing costs that occurred under the previous, more expansive definition of associated staff for testing occurring through August 14, 2020. Previous administrator alerts on this topic are located [here](#).

Thank you for your continued efforts during this pandemic.

Michael McCormick, Interim Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul A.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Aging and People with Disabilities Program
Department of Human Services

If you have any questions, please contact your licensing team:

CBC.team@dhsosha.state.or.us
Nf.licensing@dhsosha.state.or.us

For general information about the DHS Office of Safety, Oversight and Quality, visit the DHS Web site at www.oregon.gov/DHS/.