

## FAQs for Health Services and Facilities

**Q: How can a healthcare facility acquire COVID-19 testing kits?**

**A:** Facilities should assess their individual needs for testing kits prior to making a request. DHEC's Public Health Laboratory (PHL) provides collection materials to facilities when there is a need and not for stockpiling. If and when a need arises, testing kits are delivered promptly to a facility. Contact information for acquiring COVID-19 testing kits from PHL is available [here](#).

**Q: How can a facility acquire more kits for their Point of Care (POC) antigen tests?**

**A:** Facilities should contact their POC antigen test manufacture to order more supplies. For the Quidel Sofia 2 instrument, visit the [Quidel website](#) and click on their "Order More Tests" tab. For the BD Veritor Plus System, visit the [BD website](#) and click on their "Order Tests" tab.

**Q: Who should facilities contact if they require assistance because of active COVID-19 cases within their facilities?**

**A:** Facilities are encouraged to contact their regional epidemiology office, found on the [List of Reportable Conditions](#), for assistance regarding active cases involving staff or residents within their facility. Facilities that have already been in contact with a regional Epidemiology or Infection Control team member should continue to communicate with their contact.

**Q: How can facilities get infection control and PPE supplies?**

**A:** For PPE Vendors, a list of vendors can be found on the State Fiscal Accountably Authority (SFAA) Procurement Services website for [COVID-19 Vendor Information](#), the Charleston County Medical Society's [Action PPE website](#), and the [PPE Exchange website](#). Facilities having trouble obtaining PPE through vendors should request assistance through their [local healthcare coalition](#) or contact their County Emergency Management Division to inquire about obtaining more PPE.

**Q: Are facilities permitted to admit new patients or residents?**

**A:** There are currently no restrictions on admitting new patients or residents into nursing homes or long-term care facilities. CDC recommends actively monitoring and quarantining all patients and residents upon admission. Daily monitoring includes monitoring for fever and respiratory symptoms, including shortness of breath, new or changing coughs, and sore throat. Monitoring and quarantining should last fourteen (14) days. If possible, facilities should dedicate a unit or wing exclusively as the observation unit for any patients or residents that are newly admitted or re-admitted.

**Q: Have there been any changes to tuberculosis screenings for new hires in nursing homes and assisted living facilities?**

**A:** Yes. Per the [April 3, 2020 DHEC memo](#) addressed to nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other healthcare facility types, DHEC now waives tuberculin skin testing for facility staff prior to their date of hire, initial resident contact, or initial patient contact. However, facilities shall conduct an individual risk assessment for each prospective staff member, including a tuberculosis symptoms evaluation. As COVID-19 and tuberculosis share similar symptoms of cough and fever, any symptomatic staff member shall not have patient or resident contact.