

## COVID-19 TESTING FAQs

1. **What is included in a respiratory panel?** *The major tests include Flu A & B, RSV and rhinovirus and strep.*
2. **How long after collection does the specimen have to be sent to the lab?** *The tests should be refrigerated ASAP after collection until picked up by AHA lab tech. If shipping to NPH medical or ECCOLab, specimen must be frozen. Please refer to your specific lab information sheet.*
3. **What if we do not have access to a respiratory panel through our lab?** *The major tests should include Flu A & B, RSV and rhinovirus and strep.*
4. **What is the turnaround time for a respiratory panel?** *From 24 hours to 5 days. Each lab may have different turnaround times. Please reach out to your facility provider.*
5. **What is the turnaround time for a COVID-1DO 9 test?** *72 hours with NPH Medical, 3-4 days with AHA lab.*
6. **Do the tests need to be refrigerated?** *Yes, until the AHA tech picks it up. If it is to be shipped for ECCOLab or NPH Medical, they should be frozen and mailed. Please see the attached lab information sheets.*
7. **If a respiratory Panel is positive, can the patient also be tested for COVID-19?** *That decision will be made by the facility Medical Director based on the resident's symptoms.*
8. **If a resident has a positive COVID-19, do we also test their roommate?** *No, unless the resident is symptomatic. Then follow the COVID-19 policy.*
9. **Do we swab both nares?** *Only one side is swabbed for the COVID-19 test, unless otherwise instructed by Medical Director or lab.*
10. **Do we isolate those that have been exposed, but do not show symptoms?** *This would be directed by the Health Department. More than likely they will isolate the whole unit, but again, this is and will be up to the Health Department.*
11. **Do we isolate the resident while we are waiting on the respiratory panel results or COVID-19 results?** *Absolutely, droplet precautions and room log to track who enters until the test results come back.*
12. **If we have a positive COVID-19 result, will the staff that has been exposed still be allowed to work or will they need to quarantine for 14 days?** *That will depend and be determined by the Health Department. They will get a line listing of the stakeholders who were in contact with the resident and screen them and then determine from there.*
13. **Now that the test will be available, we were previously told to isolate the suspected resident AND keep a mask on them.** *Should we still be keeping a mask on the resident if they are isolated? They only need to have a mask on if/when they leave the room.*