STAY SAFE MN

Reporting Point of Care COVID-19 Test Results through the CDC National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)

OCTOBER 26, 2020

Key Messages

- Federally certified nursing facilities are required to report point of care (POC) COVID-19 test results, including antigen test results, through the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Long-term Care Facility (LTCF) COVID-19 Module.

  - As of October 19, 2020, this NHSN reporting is required to meet federal Health and Human Services requirements. Implementation can take some time, so facilities are encouraged to begin the process now. The enforcement date for this requirement is not yet known.

- Assisted living facilities can also report through NHSN, if desired. Contact NHSN@cdc.gov with the subject line "Enhancing Data Security" to initiate SAMS access.

- Every LTCF conducting POC antigen testing must continue to report to Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) until NHSN reporting aligns with state reporting requirements.

  - MDH: Reporting Results of COVID-19 Tests Performed Inside Your Long-term Care Facility (https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/ltcantigenreport.pdf)

  - MDH is working with CDC to determine whether the NHSN reporting pathway can also meet Minnesota State reporting requirements.

- Right now, we encourage each LTCF to learn about NHSN reporting.

  - Review the information at CDC: NHSN COVID-19 LTCF Module (https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/covid19/index.html)

  - Increase your NHSN access to Level 3, if you do not have this level of access already. Level 1 access, which is sufficient for some COVID-19 reporting requirements, is insufficient for reporting of POC test results.

  - Plan to attend the CDC informational webinar or access the archived content. Dates and times will be made available on the CDC website and communicated by MDH.
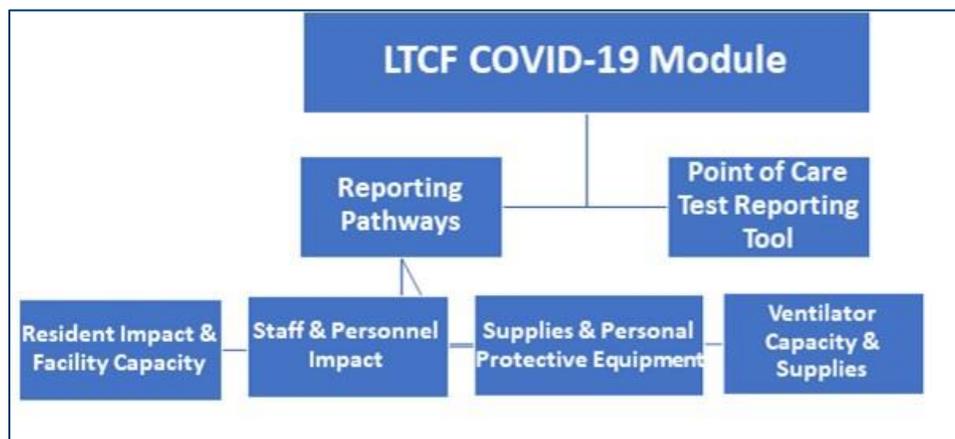
General Information about LTCF COVID-19 Module

The NHSN LTCF Component contains a COVID-19 Module for LTCFs. Facilities eligible to report into the COVID-19 Module include nursing homes/skilled-nursing facilities, long-term care for the developmentally disabled, and assisted-living facilities. The figure shows the pathways of the LTCF COVID-19 Module, which facilitates collection of data relevant to resident impact and facility capacity, staff and personnel impact, supplies and personal protective equipment, ventilator capacity and supplies, and point of care (POC) antigen test results.

LTCFs can report results of SARS-CoV-2 POC antigen testing conducted onsite in their facility through the LTCF COVID-19 Module POC Test Reporting Tool. **Federally certified skilled nursing facilities are required to report antigen test results through the NHSN Reporting Tool.** This pathway enables CMS-certified long-term care facilities to meet the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) requirement to report SARS-CoV-2 point-of-care antigen test data.

LTCFs can learn more about the NHSN LTCF COVID-19 Module on CDC's website.

- CDC: LTCF COVID-19 Module (https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/covid19/index.html)

CDC Trainings for POC Test Reporting

Information regarding dates and times of the CDC training, *Reporting Results of Point of Care Testing for COVID-19: A New NHSN Pathway,* will be communicated as soon as they are released. LTCF can send inquiries to NHSN@cdc.gov, with the subject line of "POC test reporting."

Data Elements for POC Test Reporting

Data elements reported through the POC Test Reporting Tool include:

- Facility unique identifier
- Resident or staff unique identifier

- Resident or staff name, gender, date of birth, ethnicity, race, address, phone number

- POC test date, device name (e.g., Quidel Sofia 2 SARS Antigen FIA), specimen source, test result, ordering physician

- Tested individual's symptom status and pregnancy status

- Ordering physician address and phone number

The reporting form and the table of reporting instructions can be found on CDC's website.

- CDC: Point of Care Testing Form (CDC 57.155) (https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/covid19/ltcf/57.155-p.pdf)

- CDC: Instructions for Point of Care Testing Form (CDC 57.155) (https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/covid19/ltcf/57.155-toi-508.pdf)

NHSN Enrollment Requirements for POC Test Reporting

LTCFs reporting to any part of the LTCF COVID-19 Module need to enroll in NHSN. Some facilities have already acquired limited Secure Access Management Service (SAMS) access to NHSN earlier in the COVID-19 pandemic in order to complete required CMS reporting through the LTCF COVID-19 Module Reporting Pathways.

LTCFs that wish to report POC SARS-CoV-2 testing results into the NHSN application but have limited access to the COVID-19 Module only (specifically, no SAMS grid card) will need to upgrade their NHSN SAMS access from Level 1 to Level 3. Use the information available on CDC's website or email the NHSN program for assistance.

- CDC: Increasing LTCF SAMS Level Access to NHSN (https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/covid19/sams-access.html)

- Contact NHSN@cdc.gov with the subject line "Enhancing Data Security" to begin upgrading SAMS access.

LTCFs enrolling in NHSN for the first time should follow the instructions on CDC's website. Learn more by reviewing CDC's LTCF COVID-19 Module Enrollment Refresher from May 2020. Enrolled facilities should not re-enroll.

- CDC: 5-Step Enrollment for Long-term Care Facilities (https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/enroll.html)

- CDC: LTCF COVID-19 Module Enrollment Refresher YouTube Link [Video – 40 min] (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLb_rRgTvUw)

- CDC: LTCF COVID-19 Module Enrollment Refresher Slideset [PDF – 4 MB] (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLb_rRgTvUw)

- CDC: Guidance on Email Use for NHSN and SAMS Registration [PDF – 100 KB] (https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/ltc/nhsn-sams-registration-email-use.pdf)

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Contact health.communications@state.mn.us to request an alternate format.

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