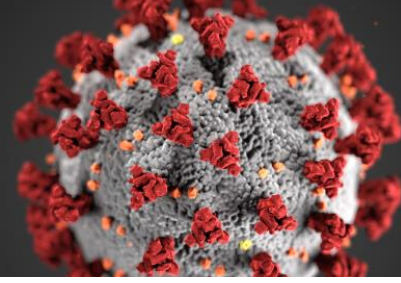


COVID-19



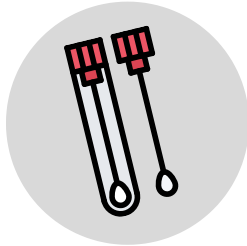
HEALTH
Department



Recommended Testing Strategy for Congregate Settings updated May 15, 2020

Congregate Settings pose unique challenges related to vulnerable populations and density in housing. The Allegan County Health Department is providing this guidance to proactively identify asymptomatic cases and contacts to mitigate spread in your setting. In addition to these recommendations, it is also important to have a plan on isolation of positive COVID-19 cases and practice universal screening guidance, social distancing, administrative controls, and enhanced environmental cleaning.

ALLEGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE ON TESTING



Congregate care settings should test:

- Staff, inmates, and/or residents who are symptomatic.
 - Symptoms include cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell.
- Staff, inmates, and or residents who are in close contact to a positive COVID-19 case, if they are not wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
 - Wait at least 5 days from known exposure to test individual.

Proactive COVID-19 Mitigation Guidance:

- First step is to baseline test all staff in a facility initially to determine their current COVID-19 status.
 - Test weekly after baseline testing occurred.
 - Consider baseline testing for all residents/inmates.
- Test new youth home residents, new inmates, and new employees as part of the screening on-boarding process.
 - Youth home resident and inmates are to be quarantined until Health Department receives test results. Continue to work with the Health Department on further actions to take.
 - New employees can start work immediately after they get a negative result.

WHO SHOULD PERFORM TESTING

Medical staff from your facility would need to perform the testing. The Allegan County Health Department will collaborate on information, supplies, and other support as needed.

TESTING SUPPLIES

Numerous venues are available to secure testing supplies.

- State strategy includes congregate care settings securing testing supplies through Regional Homeland Security.
- Testing by State Lab is free currently.