



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

December 2, 2020

ALISA: NH #2020-091
ALISA: ALF # 2020-059

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROCESS FOR POINT-OF-CARE TESTING REPORTING

Dear Administrator:

Facilities administering point-of-care (POC) testing for COVID-19 (such as BD Veritor, Sofia Quidel, AbbottBinex NOW, and other similar COVID-19 antigen testing) must report all their COVID-19 testing results to the Department of Health (DOH). Reporting COVID-19 test results is legally required by Washington State [WAC 246-101](#) and Washington State Board of Health's emergency rule, [WAC 246-101-017](#). Reporting is also a federal requirement for all facilities using POC COVID-19 testing devices under a CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments) Certificate of Waiver.

On Tuesday, November 24, 2020, the DOH released a letter regarding the process for reporting of POC testing results and provided a link to a website with detailed information for reporting test results to DOH. The process for reporting can be [accessed via this link](#).

Please note, the first option on the list is the use of the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). Many facilities have already started using this option. If your facility is already enrolled and has level 3 access for reporting, continue to do so, **however** at this time the DOH system is not able to accept results from the NHSN system. As a result, your facility will need to use a second reporting system on the list along with NHSN until the DOH system is able to accept information from NHSN. The DOH is actively working with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to be granted access to the NHSN data reported by facilities.

For nursing homes, reporting test results to NHSN is required, and it is strongly suggested that any NH that has not yet obtained level 3 access to the NHSN reporting system continue to work on obtaining needed access. Assisted living facilities are not required to use NHSN and may choose any of the options from the list in the link above.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please email RCSpolicy@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Candace Goehring".

Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"