

**COVID-19 SCREENING EXPECTATIONS FOR INPATIENTS LIKELY TO BE DISCHARGED TO  
POST-ACUTE CONGREGATE LIVING SETTINGS – SNF, ASSISTED LIVING  
April 2, 2020**

**BACKGROUND**

On April 1, 2020, the Director of the RI Department of Health directed hospitals to **screen** for COVID-19 all patients likely to be discharged to post-acute congregate living settings (e.g., SNF, Assisted Living). The RI Department of Health will perform the test at the state laboratory, with an up to 2-day turnaround time on results. COVID-19 screening testing needs to be initiated (i.e., specimen obtained in hospital and sent to state lab) as soon as possible SNF placement is identified. Testing should be completed as early in the admission as possible. Asymptomatic patients being screened are not to be considered PUIs. Please note that RI DOH guidance on screening for post-acute congregate living setting placement may change and/or expand to other post-acute discharge dispositions.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**FOR THE INPATIENT SETTING:**

1. Who will identify patients who may be considered for SNF or other aggregate living placement at discharge?
  - a. The Case Manager will identify patients and communicate with the ordering provider that the patient needs a COVID-19 test prior to discharge.
2. The patient had a negative COVID-19 test upon hospital entry, is a repeat test needed prior to discharge?
  - a. No, a single negative COVID-19 test is acceptable for transfer to a post-acute facility.
3. What is the responsibility of the ordering provider?
  - a. The ordering provider will complete the *Person Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19* reporting form. On the form, the provider needs to select in the section Risk Factors & Lab Orders that the patient is a resident of a nursing home or congregate living setting. By selecting this option, it will trigger the lab to send the test out to the DOH. Please **ONLY** select resident of a nursing home or congregate living setting which will be **highlighted in yellow**.
4. Who will collect the specimen?
  - a. The ordering provider collects the nasopharyngeal specimen. The COVID testing form must accompany the specimen.
5. Do these patients require RPP?
  - a. Asymptomatic patients being tested for COVID-19 prior to discharge to SNF for SNF-entry screening purposes only, do **NOT** require an RPP.

6. Does an asymptomatic patient who is anticipated to be discharged to SNF or other aggregate living setting require isolation?
  - a. If testing is solely for placement/referral purposes, and there are no other clinical symptoms, the patient does not need to be on isolation, and we do not need to use PPE.
  
7. When can the patient transfer to SNF or other aggregate living setting?
  - a. Once the test is resulted and is negative, the Case Manager will work with the receiving facility to transfer the patient.

**FOR THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT SETTING:**

1. What are the requirements for a patient who has been referred to the Emergency Department and the decision, in the Emergency Department is to discharge the patient back to the SNF?
  - a. If a patient was sent into the Emergency Department from a Nursing Home and they are returning to the same nursing home they were sent to the ED from, the patient does NOT require a COVID test