



Iowa Health Care Association
Iowa Center for Assisted Living
Iowa Center for Home Care

Provider Questions Regarding Strike Teams - 5/12/20

- 1. How is the state determining the counties and sites where the strike teams will be deployed?** There are a number of factors, including but not limited to: overall status of health care system, number of COVID-19 positive cases, outbreaks in long-term care facilities, outbreaks in food production and outbreaks in manufacturing.
- 2. Who will be contacting my facility to tell me the strike team is coming to my county?** Staff from the Governor's office or other team members will be making initial contact.
- 3. What information will I be asked to provide, to whom, and how much time will I have to collect information and respond to the request? (e.g., list of employees, phone numbers, schedule- who assigns staff to time slots?)** Each facility will be asked to compile a list of basic facility information and number of staff interested in testing. Once that is submitted, the team can assess the overall scheduling of facility staff. Each facility will be assigned time slots and employees will be able to choose which slot works best for their schedule.
- 4. What type of test will be administered at the testing site? (e.g., COVID-19 test, serology test or both?) If one or the other, what is the determining factor for which test should be administered?** Both tests may be available, depending on type of location, and staff can use their discretion as to what is best for their situation. General guidance is as follows:
 - *Symptomatic:* nasal swab
 - *Asymptomatic but has had contact with an individual who is COVID-19 positive:* nasal swab + serology
 - *Well person:* serology
- 5. How long can staff expect to wait for their tests results and who will notify them of the outcome?** Staff will be notified by the contact tracers assigned by the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH). While the goal is to get results back to individuals within 48 hours, there are situations in which the overall volume of testing can push notification to 72 hours.
- 6. If a staff member tests positive will the employer be notified? If yes, by whom? How will they be notified? (e.g., by email, phone, etc.?) Will the facility be notified of the test outcome for each employee by name?** If a facility arranges to order the tests through their medical director, the facility will be able to log into the online portal for notification.

7. **Is it necessary to encourage testing for *all staff* or just those who exhibit symptoms or work directly with residents?** This testing option is open to all facility staff regardless of symptomology or role.
8. **Is it necessary to test staff if the facility does not currently have a positive case of COVID-19 among staff or residents in the facility?** This opportunity is voluntary but encouraged to ensure that individuals with active COVID-19 are aware and staying home to mitigate further spread.
9. **Can staff return to work after being tested and before learning the outcome of their test?** Staff may return to work and, as always, should be adhering to recommended use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
10. **What are the benefits to the facility of having staff tested, and why should I encourage them to do so?** This opportunity is voluntary but encouraged to ensure that individuals with active COVID-19 are aware and staying home to mitigate further spread.
11. **I have staff who would like to be tested but are unavailable on the dates/times the strike teams are available. What should I tell them? Is there an alternative?** If this is the case, please let the individual know who contacted your facility. Arrangements may be made to send test kits directly to the facility.
12. **My facility has staff who live outside the county in which they work. Should their testing status be determined based on the county in which they work or reside?** Testing is offered to facility staff working at the facility, regardless of the county in which they reside.
13. **My facility has already provided tests to my staff. Do I still need to ask staff to be tested by the strike team?** Testing is voluntary, and facilities can use discretion.
14. **What are appropriate steps to take if several staff test positive, are no longer able to work in my facility and I experience staffing shortages? Where can I go for help with staffing and what is the role of IDPH with regards to staffing shortages?** Facilities are encouraged to use existing staffing contracts as appropriate. If those resources are exhausted, the department will work with the facility to locate other available resources.
15. **Where will the testing take place? On my facility grounds or in a central, county-wide location?** The location of testing will be described by the team reaching out and may vary from county to county.
16. **Can my assisted livings participate in the strike team testing events?** Yes, testing opportunities may be extended to associated assisted living.