



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Penny Borenstein, MD, MPH *Health Officer/Public Health Director*

PROVIDER HEALTH ADVISORY

Date: June 2, 2022

Contact: Laurie Salo, REHS, 805-781-5500, lsalo@co.slo.ca.us

COVID-19 Outbreak Response Testing: Recommendations for Facilities

Public Health Department unable to provide full-service response testing after June 15

Beginning on June 16, 2022, the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department will no longer be able to provide full-service COVID-19 outbreak response testing to congregate facilities.

We are communicating this change now to help support facilities in developing plans for outbreak response testing at that time. Recommended options include:

PCR Testing: Best Option. PCR testing remains the preferred option for response testing if a staff member or resident at a long term care facility tests positive for COVID-19. PCR response testing should be conducted at a frequency of at least once a week. Staffing options for testing include:

- **Contracted Staff + Lab.** Local organizations are available to conduct swabbing and process specimens. (See contact details on page two of this advisory.)
- **Contracted Staff + Public Health Lab.** Staff, contractors, or volunteers at your facility (any currently licensed health care professional, including nurses, EMTs, psychiatric technicians, physicians, physician assistants and others, as outlined in the [California K-12 Antigen Testing Program Playbook](#)) may conduct swabbing for PCR tests. Now is a good time to think about anyone you may know who could be available to conduct swabbing at your facility. The Public Health Department can provide PPE for the health care personnel who are swabbing. Specimens may be delivered to the Public Health Laboratory, which will test the specimens at no cost to the facility or patient. (Insurance information will be collected; no co-pay will be charged, and fees will be waived for those without insurance.)

Antigen Testing: Acceptable Option. While not the preferred option for response testing at a facility, the use of observed antigen testing is an acceptable option if PCR testing is not available. When using antigen tests for response testing, a facility must test at a cadence of at least twice weekly. The Public Health Department may provide rapid antigen tests to facilities at no cost.

Reminder: Required Reporting and Testing

As a reminder, congregate facilities are required to report COVID-19 cases to the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department and to the Community Care Licensing Division of the California Department of Social Services. To report a positive case, please contact

Public Health Department

2191 Johnson Avenue | San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 | (P) 805-781-5500 | (F) 805-781-5543

www.slopublichealth.org

PublicHealth.Outbreaks@co.slo.ca.us or call 805-781-5500. At the time of reporting to Public Health, you will be asked to discuss your plans for required outbreak response testing.

Outbreak testing requirements differ when using PCR and rapid antigen tests. For a more detailed reminder of testing requirements, see the California Department of Public Health Updated Testing Guidance at <https://bit.ly/CDPH-Testing>.

Local organizations available to provide contract services include:

NextGen Laboratories of Central Coast

Contact: Ashley Blank, 805-423-1809, nextgenlabs.com

May provide on-site swabbing at your facility and full-service lab

Walker Medical Wellness

Contact: 805-364-4412, walkermedicalwellness.com

May provide on-site swabbing at your facility, full-service lab (in collaboration with commercial laboratories), and vaccination

Maxim Healthcare Services

Contact: 805-788-0456, sanluisobispooffice@maxhealth.com, www.maximhealthcare.com

May provide staff to support various needs at your facility