

Important COVID-19 Updates and Information for Long-term Care Facilities

From: NHSN (CDC) <nhsn@cdc.gov>

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Dear NHSN LTC Users,

Please see the updates and information regarding reporting data into the NHSN COVID-19 reporting pathways and tools.

1. Additional POC Test Devices

Today you will notice that the NHSN Point of Care Test Reporting Tool now has five additional test devices for which results can be recorded. The list of devices now includes:

- Accula SARS-CoV-2 Test
- BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card
- CareStart COVID-19 Antigen Test
- CueCOVID-19 Test
- ID NOW COVID-19
- LumiraDx SARS-CoV-2 Ag Test
- Sofia SARS Antigen FIA
- BD Veritor system for Rapid Detection of SARS-CoV-2

In addition to these devices, NHSN is working to add other tests currently provided Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for SARS-CoV-2 testing by the U.S Food and Drug Administration. These additional tests are sometimes called multiplex tests or panels, and in addition to testing for SARS-CoV-2, they can also test for other viruses such as influenza and in rare cases, some types of bacteria. NHSN will be able to accept all the results these devices provide when they are added to the NHSN POC tool.

2. Defect Identified in the POC Test Reporting Tool

NHSN has become aware of a defect in the system which can result in omission of Staff IDs, Resident IDs or Specimen IDs containing at least one letter (ex. A1234) from the line lists in analysis. This appears to be a sporadic problem. While the data is indeed saved in the system and can be accessed by pulling up the individual and related information via the “Find Resident/Staff ...” option, the individual and related information may not appear in the line list. We are anticipating this issue to be corrected in a release in January 2020. Please accept our sincere apologies. In the meantime, we suggest using only numbers for the Staff, Resident and Specimen IDs.

3. Reminder about COVID-19 Reporting via the NHSN

In case you are not aware, reporting COVID-19 testing data into the NHSN Resident Impact and Facility Capacity (RIFC) Pathway, which is accessed via the “COVID-19 Daily Entry “ option, does require CMS-certified nursing homes to report aggregate Point of Care (POC) test counts. While the RIFC pathway captures total numbers of the various types of SARS-CoV-2 tests that are performed, it does not result in the data being sent directly to your state health department and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services with the details that are required for contact tracing and other outbreak investigations. This type of information must be reported via the NHSN POC Test Reporting Tool. If your state health department is telling you that it has not received your facility’s expected POC test data from NHSN, please check to ensure you are reporting via the POC Test Reporting Tool in addition to the RIFC pathway. More information, including training and Frequently Asked Questions for the POC Reporting Tool can be found at this location <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/covid19/index.html>

Thank you for your continued partnership and for all that you do,

The NHSN Team