Interim Guidance for Long-term Care Facility Reporting of Antigen Test Results
(October 6, 2020)

Thank you for your continued engagement with COVID-19 testing. The information you provide is key to ensure timely public health actions and helps us have a complete understanding of the status of COVID-19 activity in North Carolina.

This interim guidance provides information on two items:
- Reporting COVID-19 antigen results from your facility to public health, and
- A COVID-19 test portal for reporting aggregate, deidentified COVID-19 test numbers for those facilities that do not report results electronically.

<u>Reporting Antigen Test Results</u>
Your facility has been identified as having received or being likely to receive a **point-of-care antigen test device** for detection of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. This message serves to remind you that providers are required North Carolina Administrative Code Rule 10A NCAC 41A.0107 to report **all results**, positive and negative, of diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2. This includes antigen test results. For long-term care facilities who are not yet reporting electronically, either via Electronic Lab Reporting (ELR) or in accordance with the laboratory data automation process outlined in the guidance for reporting results, please follow this reporting guidance.
- **Long-term care facilities** are required to report all test results that will not be reported by a laboratory in accordance with this guidance within 24 hours of receiving the test result.
- **Long-term care facilities** should complete the Excel spreadsheet located here (also attached) for positive results. This spreadsheet MUST be submitted securely via email according to the following instructions:
    - Password protect the spreadsheet using the password provided by the Division of Public Health.
    - Please email LabTeam@dhhs.nc.gov to obtain your password. This same password will be used for each spreadsheet that is submitted.
    - Label the Subject line: "Confidential Test information".
    - Encrypt the email to which the spreadsheet is attached.
    - Please email your password protected Excel spreadsheet via encrypted email to LabTeam@dhhs.nc.gov .

The full guidance for reporting results is available on the healthcare guidance section of the NC DHHS COVID-19 website. Additional guidance regarding appropriate use of antigen testing is also available on our website. Providers needing consultation can call the NC Division of Public Health epidemiologist on call at 919-733-3419.

Announcing a new electronic volume reporting portal
In an effort to streamline and simplify the COVID-19 test data collection process, NC DHHS has developed an electronic survey to collect data on all daily COVID-19 testing **volumes** (positive and negative results) from facilities or laboratories not currently reporting all results through Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) or COVID-19 Lab Data Automation (CLDA). The survey, called "Electronic COVID-19 Aggregate Test Reporting" (eCATR) will be used to collect aggregate daily testing **volumes** from laboratories and/or point of care (POC) facilities. Please see the attached pdf for a user guide on reporting via eCATR.

Please note:
- **This survey does not replace the requirement to submit your detailed positive COVID-19 test results using the spreadsheet outlined above to provide information necessary for surveillance of COVID-19.**
- **This survey does not replace the staff testing reporting requirements for nursing homes under Secretarial Order No. 2 and Secretarial Order No. 4, which are submitted through the *COVID-19 Testing: Nursing Home Reporting* Portal.**

This aggregate data will ensure we are able to more accurately account for COVID-19 testing and capacities in NC. Our goal is to ease the burden of reporting by streamlining the data collection and reporting process.

Thank you again for all you are doing to protect the health of residents in your facilities.