



## STANDING ORDER FOR COVID-19 SCREENING IN CERTAIN CONGREGATE FACILITIES AND AGENCIES

**Authority:** This standing order is issued by Acting Washington State Health Officer and State Epidemiologist for Communicable Diseases, Scott Lindquist, MD, pursuant to the *PREP Act Authorization for Washington State Secretary of Health, State Health Officer, and State Epidemiologist for Communicable Diseases to Prescribe, Administer, Deliver, Distribute, and Dispense COVID-19 Covered Countermeasures* issued by the Washington State Secretary of Health, Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, as an Authority Having Jurisdiction pursuant to the *Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19* issued by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, as subsequently amended.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this standing order is to facilitate universal screening of residents, clients, and staff at certain congregate living settings at risk of COVID-19 outbreaks with residents at high risk of severe complications from COVID-19. These screening efforts will help to identify COVID-19 infections in these facilities and inform COVID-19 prevention and control efforts. This order cannot be used to test residents and staff at these facilities with suspected COVID-19 for diagnostic purposes or universal testing at facilities with a confirmed or suspected outbreak of COVID-19.

**Authorization:** This standing order authorizes a licensed health care provider who is authorized under Washington law to administer SARS-CoV-2 tests to obtain a specimen from an eligible individual for SARS-CoV-2 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or antigen tests that have been authorized, approved, or cleared by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA).

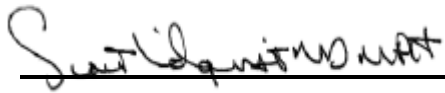
**Eligible individuals:** An eligible individual is a resident, client, or staff member without suspected COVID-19 who lives or works in a congregate living facility that lacks a staff or contracted health care provider to order such testing. This order can only be used for residents, clients, and staff members of assisted living facilities, adult family homes, supported living agencies, residential habilitation centers, and intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

**Facility and agency administrators and licensed health care providers collecting specimens under this standing order must do the following:**

- Prior to collecting the specimen from the individual being tested, the facility/agency administrator or licensed health care provider shall provide appropriate information to the individual, which shall include, but is not limited to, the following:
  - Notice that the laboratory conducting the test may return the result to the facility/agency administrator;
  - The option for the individual being tested to receive the result directly from the laboratory conducting the test; AND
  - Information on next steps to take following testing, including information on how to obtain follow-up medical care, and/or to address questions about diagnosis if they test positive for COVID-19.
- Licensed health care providers must administer SARS-CoV-2 tests in accordance with the FDA's and the manufacturer's instructions and requirements.

- Use correct testing materials according to manufacturer instructions and the laboratory that will be performing the test.
- Ensure the licensed healthcare provider is using appropriate personal protective equipment when collecting specimens, including gloves, gown, N95 respirator (or surgical mask if respirator not available), and eye protection (goggles or face shield).
- Facility/agency administrators must furnish results to the individual as soon as possible after results are received, though no later than 24 hours after the facility's/agency's receipt of the test results.
- Facility/agency administrators must report COVID-19 test results as directed by state and federal law and requirements.
- Facility/agency administrators must refer individuals who test positive and other with questions to their personal health care provider, employee health provider, or another appropriately licensed-and-credentialed health care provider for interpretation of results, clinical management of tested individuals, and/or evaluation of any related health complaint that such individuals may report or endorse

**TERM:** This standing order shall take effect immediately upon signing and remain in effect until rescinded or superseded by a subsequent standing order, the issuing physician ceases to act as the State Health Officer, the Secretary of Health's authorization for this standing order expires or is revoked, or the Governor issues a proclamation declaring the termination of the State of Emergency declared by Proclamation 20-05, as amended and extended by subsequent amendatory proclamations, whichever comes sooner.



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01/25/2021

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Physician Signature and License No.

Date

Scott Lindquist, MD, MPH

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Physician Name (Printed)