

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TESTING ORDER
STAFF TALKING POINTS

- Thank you for all of the work you do to provide extraordinary levels of care to our residents.
- These efforts have not come without sacrifice. In almost all cases, our residents are no longer able to spend time with family, friends or loved ones. Close contact within our facilities has been sharply curtailed. And you have continued to care for your residents despite fears for your residents, your families and yourself. We are grateful for the care you provide, often unseen and unrecognized, while carrying our community through this crisis.
- Over the last several months, we've learned a lot about COVID-19. Most importantly, we have learned that our nurses, aides, therapists and others can carry this virus – without showing any symptoms – and at no fault of their own, transmit that virus to other staff members and to our residents.
- Just as personal protective equipment can help to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, widespread, universal testing is another way we can ensure the safety of our residents as well as you and your colleagues.
- By testing all residents and staff on a recurring basis, we can begin to take steps toward relaxing some of the restrictions currently in place – allowing our residents to eat and socialize with friends. It will also help us to establish a baseline ahead of any relaxed visitation policies which would allow our residents to spend time with their family and loved ones for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in Pennsylvania.
- We also hope this new testing policy will help to give you and your family peace of mind.
- All testing will be provided to all staff at no cost.
- We understand your concerns about how a positive test may impact you and your family, especially as you are away from work recuperating. That's why we've put a comprehensive policy in place compensate you should you test positive for COVID-19.
- We encourage you to speak to [INSERT APPROPRIATE INDIVIDUAL BY FACILITY].