Over-the-Counter COVID-19 Antigen Testing Guidance
at CDSS Licensed Care Facilities
Long Term Care Facility Outbreak Team
COVID-19 Division
March 2023

Over-the-counter (OTC) tests may be used in these situations:

1. To test residents, healthcare personnel or others onsite who are symptomatic if other testing options are not available;
2. To support post-exposure or outbreak response testing; or
3. To screen asymptomatic healthcare personnel or visitors if recommended by CDPH or your local health department in response to elevated community rates.

- FDA-authorized OTC COVID-19 antigen tests must be used without deviation from the manufacturer’s instructions for use.
- Any onsite use of OTC COVID-19 antigen tests among facility staff, visitors, and persons in care must be observed in real time by an authorized ASC facility staff member or by an authorized telehealth proctor.
- Licensees who conduct diagnostic screening testing at the facility should have a plan in place for tracking test results, conducting workplace contact tracing, and reporting positive results to primary care provider and Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) at (510) 268-2785 or email LTCFOutbreak@acgov.org.

For more information please see:
- CMS - Over-The-Counter (OTC) Home Testing and CLIA Applicability

Or contact Community Care Licensing and Certification Regional Office:
- (510) 286-4201 and
- CCLASCPOaklandRO@dss.ca.gov