

**To:** Long-Term Care Facilities Participating in the Nebraska Medicaid Program  
**From:** Jeremy Brunssen, Interim Director   
**Date:** October 21, 2020  
**Re:** COVID-19 Testing in Long-Term Care Facilities

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This bulletin is being issued to clarify Nebraska Medicaid's policies regarding COVID-19 testing for residents of nursing and long-term care facilities in Nebraska and provide an update on recent guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

CMS has recently issued new guidance for facilities regarding testing requirements for residents and staff. Nebraska Medicaid would encourage Nebraska facilities to review this new guidance, which is available at <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-38-nh.pdf>.

The department's policy for reimbursing COVID-19 testing for Medicaid beneficiaries is consistent with the guidance issued by CMS for reimbursing Medicare recipients in long-term care facilities..

Nebraska Medicaid covers the full cost to the facility for lab-based testing. Testing is to be completed to diagnose or rule out a COVID-19 case.

Provider Bulletins, such as this one, are posted on the DHHS website at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/Medicaid-Provider-Bulletins.aspx>. Please subscribe to the page to help you stay up to date about new Provider Bulletins.

DHHS has a dedicated COVID-19 web page at: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

The CDC's dedicated page is available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>