



El Paso Department of Public Health

MAYOR
Dee Margo

**CITY OF EL PASO HEALTH AUTHORITY ORDER FOR TESTING STAFF
AT FACILITIES THAT PROVIDE CARE FOR THE ELDERLY
(EXCLUDING NURSING HOMES AND ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES)**

July 27, 2020

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EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

This Order supersedes the June 13, 2020 Health Authority Order for facilities that provide care for the elderly. This Order is effective immediately and shall be in effect until terminated or modified by a subsequent Order.

In light of the presence of COVID-19 in our community, the Local Health Authority for the City-County of El Paso is issuing the following order:

1. Facilities that provide care for the elderly (excluding nursing homes and assisted living facilities) shall perform molecular testing on all of their employees, in the manner described below, to identify any staff who may be positive for COVID-19.

A. Molecular testing shall be performed every other week on all staff who have never tested positive for COVID-19.

B. Molecular testing shall be performed every other week until all staff members test negative.

C. If, or once all, staff tests negative, then molecular testing should be performed monthly for a period of three (3) months.

D. A determination regarding the continuation of staff testing shall be made by the Local Health Authority after the third month of testing after consideration of the prevalence of COVID-19 cases in the County of El Paso.

E. Facilities are required to keep a record of their testing data, including dates of testing, the names of staff members, and staff test results. Such data must be provided to the Local Health Authority for use by the Local Health Authority in determining the need for continued testing pursuant to paragraph 1 (D), above.

F. For purposes of this Order, "molecular testing" means a diagnostic test that shows if an individual has an active coronavirus infection by detecting the virus's genetic material.

FAILURE TO ABIDE BY THIS ORDER, INCLUDING ANY AMENDMENTS, IS A CLASS C MISDEMEANOR PUNISHABLE BY A FINE OF UP TO \$500.00.

Hector I. Ocaranza, M.D., MPH
Health Authority City/County of El Paso, TX

20-1052-1069/1008486_2/LHA Order Regarding Testing Nursing Home Staff

