



# Arkansas Department of Health

---

4815 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2000  
Governor Asa Hutchinson  
José R. Romero, MD, Secretary of Health

February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## **Re: Weekly Testing During Inclement Weather**

Due to inclement weather, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) is requesting that all long-term care facilities that are currently doing weekly testing of staff for COVID-19 utilize on-site rapid methods for the week of Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. Inclement weather has been identified state-wide and is expected to significantly affect driving conditions. As such, delivery of specimens to off-site laboratories is ill-advised. Only staff that are physically working in the building should be tested – persons should not be requested to travel to the facility for testing.

Facilities that do not have supplies to perform rapid tests should forgo testing and resume regularly scheduled testing on Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, or sooner if local weather conditions permit.

At this time, all facilities in Arkansas are deemed to have significant delays in access to testing due to widespread inclement weather for the week of Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> as verified by the Arkansas Department of Health. An individual evaluation is not needed.

As always, the safety of all persons is our priority.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Program at [ADH.HAI@arkansas.gov](mailto:ADH.HAI@arkansas.gov) with subject line “Weekly Testing- Inclement Weather”.

Sincerely,

*Kelley Garner*

**Kelley Garner, MPH, MLS(ASCP)CM**

HAI Program Manager and State Coordinator