



# WATCHDOG

Guarding manufactured/mobile home owner rights

## Explanation and Procedures for Rapid COVID Tests

The Governor has announced that Florida will be receiving around 400,000 15 minute tests for COVID from the federal government at no cost to Florida.

For communities which would like to have access to these tests, please send an email to: [rapidtestforseniors@em.myflorida.com](mailto:rapidtestforseniors@em.myflorida.com)

This will access a survey which must be completed and returned. The survey will collect information about the community and a point of contact must be provided.

Even though the Florida Division of Emergency Management, (DEM), is providing the logistical support for distribution, recipients must comply with the rules and regulation of the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, (CMS).

CMS requires administration of the Rapid Tests by a nurse.

The Governor has stated that Florida would attempt to obtain a CLIA, (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment), which would eliminate that requirement. The CLIA has not been granted at this time.

DEM has interacted with various HOAs throughout the state on this and they suggest the following:

- ü Some HOAs are notifying residents that a nurse will be available to administer the tests at a time certain for that HOA in a convenient location. The HOA is working with employee leasing agencies to employ the nurse and the nurse must be affiliated with an authorized reporting entity.
- ü Some HOAs have created a relationship with a community hospital to have the necessary nurse available.
- ü Some HOAs have partnered with a local clinical laboratory to have the necessary nurse.
- ü An individual physician's office may or may not be able to assist with this. The physician who employs the nurse must be affiliated with an authorized reporting entity.

(I have suggested to DEM that further explanation of the above would be very helpful as part of the state's distribution procedures!!)

Thanks,

*Nancy Black Stewart*