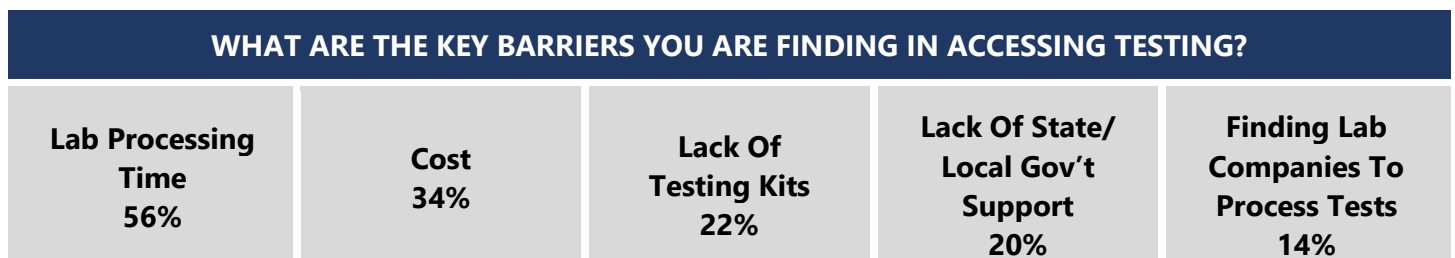## SURVEY SHOWS PROCESSING TIME OF COVID TESTS FOR LONG TERM CARE RESIDENTS AND STAFF A MAJOR CONCERN

The American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL) conducted a survey of 1,385 members from June 25-29, 2020 on COVID-19 testing of staff at long term care facilities.

56% of nursing homes and assisted living communities having issues with lab processing of tests.

Nearly half of nursing homes and assisted living communities say the time labs are taking to process COVID-19 tests of residents and staff has become a major barrier and many are still having problems with finding labs to process test results. More than one third said the cost of testing staff is still a major barrier and one-out-of-five said lack of state and government support is a key issue.

WHAT ARE THE KEY BARRIERS YOU ARE FINDING IN ACCESSING TESTING?				
Lab Processing Time 56%	Cost 34%	Lack Of Testing Kits 22%	Lack Of State/ Local Gov't Support 20%	Finding Lab Companies To Process Tests 14%

Source: American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living

87% said getting test results back from the lab companies is taking two days or longer.

For regular testing of nursing home and assisted living residents and staff to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in facilities, receiving timely test results is paramount. However, nearly nine-out-of-ten nursing homes and assisted living communities said it is taking more than two days to get test results back. One-out-of-four said testing results are taking five days or more to receive.

ON AVERAGE HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO GET TESTS RESULTS BACK?			
Same Day 3%	Next Day 10%	2-4 Days 63%	5 Days or More 24%

Source: American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living

"The amount of time it is taking to receive testing results is hurting the ability of long term facilities to fight the virus. Regular testing of nursing home and assisted living staff is a vital step in controlling the spread of COVID-19, but is not effective without obtaining timely test results. For nursing homes and assisted living communities to protect residents and staff, we need on-site testing with reliable and rapid results. With a recent uptick in COVID-19 cases among the general population, we are concerned labs will get overwhelmed and receiving results for long term care residents and staff will take longer to obtain."

Mark Parkinson, President and CEO, American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living