COVID19 Pharmacy Testing Update

New Jersey Board of Pharmacy Authorizes Pharmacists to Perform Covid-19 Tests

We are pleased to announce that yesterday; the New Jersey Board of Pharmacy released an Administrative Order authorizing licensed pharmacists to order testing for the SARs-CoV-2 virus, the virus that causes COVID-19 (COVID-19), or its antibodies. Pharmacies that wish to offer testing must read the order in detail and understand its contents. This is an enforceable order. It is not guidance.

Pharmacists may now order and perform tests without entering into a collaborative practice agreement or protocol and without a prescription, standing order, or supervision from a physician. Pharmacy testing is subject to the conditions and limitations in paragraph 2 of the order. We would like to thank the New Jersey Board of Pharmacy for their hard work. Also a special thanks to the New Jersey Pharmacists Association for their hard work and collaboration with the New Jersey Independent Community Pharmacy Coalition. Please click this link to read the order.

The profession of pharmacy is now on point to showcase the ability and training of our independent pharmacy community. We must take great care to ensure that only properly authorized testing is offered and the highest degree of professionalism is displayed at all time as always.

Key provisions of the Administrative Order include:

a. Testing shall be limited to tests authorized by the FDA for Emergency Use Authorization designated for use in a Point of Care Setting, Click this link for a list and descriptions of the diagnostic tests and medical devices that have been authorized for emergency use by the FDA;

b. Ability to order testing for the SARs-CoV-2 virus, or its antibodies;

c. Allowed to collect specimens to test for COVID-19 or its antibodies,

d. Performance of tests for COVID-19 or its antibodies at or immediately outside of a registered pharmacy;
e. Ability to interpret and analyze COVID-19 or COVID-19 antibody test results and provide the results to patients;

f. Required to collect, analyze and monitor patient data relating to COVID-19 or COVID-19 antibody testing;

g. If you plan to offer COVID-19 testing in your pharmacy, you will need to have a CLIA Certificate of Waiver, but it is NOT needed for specimen collection. Click this link to fill out a [form for the CLIA waiver](#) and mail to the [NJ Department of Health](#). You will need to include the name of the test you will be performing.

**State Legislation To Make COVID19 Testing for Pharmacists Permanent with Payment Model**

*To be voted on in the full Senate today...*

S2436 Authorizes Pharmacists to Administer COVID-19 Tests (Support)

S2436/A4012: Authorizes pharmacists to order and administer test for Covid-19 consistent with federal guidance. We would like to thank Senator Vin Gopal for including our recommended amendments which further remove barriers to COVID-19 testing in a pharmacy setting. The bill was unanimously approved by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee on Tuesday May 12th and will be voted on today, May 14, in the Senate. The amendments remove barriers by allowing pharmacies to order and administer any test that is authorized by the FDA. The amendments also require that healthcare professionals, such as pharmacists, shall receive payment for performing Covid-19 tests from private and public healthcare plans.