

SB 300 Test and Treat Talking Points

- This legislation would allow pharmacists to provide point-of-care testing and treatment for Influenza and Strep.
- The testing and treatment would be provided through a strict protocol with a physician – similar to ones in place now for immunizations.
- The protocol must include specific categories of patients that can be tested, a process for supervising physicians to review the pharmacist's actions, and **requires a pharmacist to notify the patient's primary care physician.**
- The Board of Pharmacy and the Board of Medicine together would promulgate rules to ensure the best and safest patient care possible, including 8 hours of additional training.
- The required test must be CLIA waived, meaning it is so simple that a 7th grader could perform the test. (FDA Defined)
- The test is required to provide an automated reading – just a positive (+) or negative (-) sign, much like an over-the-counter pregnancy test
- The test for both the Flu and Strep is a simple swab test that is inserted into a device that within 15 minutes or less produces either a positive or negative result.
- Pharmacists can already perform much more complicated procedures than this, including administering a long acting antipsychotic injection in a pharmacy (legislation was passed to allow this in 2017).
- Depending on the protocol with a physician, treatment could allow for a pharmacist to dispense an antiviral for a positive flu test, or an antibiotic for a positive strep test.
- Diagnosing and treating influenza within 48 hours of the onset of flu-like symptoms can shorten the duration and severity of the illness.
- According to the CDC, 80,000 people died of influenza last winter in U.S., and hundreds of thousands were hospitalized.
- Currently, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services put the review of two potential diagnostic tests for influenza designed to be purchased over-the-counter for home use on the fast track.
- Currently, baloxavir marboxil, the first new flu drug in 20 years, has been approved by FDA. This drug has shown in trials to decrease the duration of symptoms with one dose, and demonstrated a significant reduction in the spread of the virus from person to person in just

one day

- With 86% of the population living within five miles of a pharmacy and many 24-hour options, Pharmacists are some of the most accessible health care professionals.
- Currently, 15 states allow for point-of-care testing and treatment for certain illnesses: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Kentucky, Virginia, South Carolina, and New Hampshire.
- In addition, there are 11 other states in the implementation phase or considering change to allowing pharmacists to provide these services.