



Independent Pharmacy Alliance



Garden State Pharmacy Owners



Omega Pharmacy Group

Status of Covid-19 Testing in a Pharmacy Setting

Thank you for the lifesaving services you are providing during the Covid-19 crisis. To assist our members, we have been working to make sure that pharmacies are given the opportunity to provide Covid-19 testing services to their patients.

New Jersey Board of Pharmacy Covid-19 Test Guidance Update

The New Jersey Board of Pharmacy discussed Covid-19 testing at their April 22nd meeting. The board is working on guidance that will permit pharmacies to provide Covid-19 tests and stressed that any rapid tests have to be reliable and within the FDA database of Covid-19 tests. We are hopeful that the board will act prior to any enactment of legislation and we will continue to ensure that provisions permitting pharmacies to perform Covid-19 tests are enacted into law. It is important to note that although the federal government has given pharmacists the authority to order Covid-19 tests, the New Jersey Board of Pharmacy is the final authority on authorizing testing.

State Legislative Update: Pharmacy Covid-19 Testing Bills Pending Approvals in State Senate and Assembly

S2436/A4012: Authorizes pharmacists to order and administer test for Covid-19 consistent with federal guidance. We thank Senator Vin Gopal, Senator Linda Greenstein, Assemblyman Raj Mukherji and Assemblyman Dan Benson for introducing this important bill. **We will provide recommendations and look forward to working with the sponsors on the bill's approval.** [Click here to read Senator Gopal's press release.](#) (Support)

S2330/A3908: Requires State Medicaid, NJ FamilyCare, private plans and the State Health Benefits and State Education Health Benefits Programs to provide coverage and payment for expenses incurred in Covid-19 treatment and testing. **We thank Speaker Craig Coughlin and Senator Nellie Pou for agreeing to our changes and amending the bill on May 7 in their respective committees. The amendment clarifies that healthcare professionals will receive payment for performing Covid-19 tests.** (Support)

S2388 Authorizes certain forms of testing for coronavirus disease 2019. After holding discussions with Senate Majority Office staff and Senator Declan O'Scanlon's office, it was clarified that the intent of the bill is to legalize Covid-19 take-home tests. Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island, four of the states hardest-hit by the virus, prohibit testing with at-home sample collection kits. **While we fully support the intent of the bill, we have requested some clarifying amendments.** (Seeking Amendments)

Federal Covid-19 Pharmacy Test Updates

- HHS Announcement (April 8, 2020) [Pharmacists given authorization to order and administer COVID-19 tests](#)
- CMS Announces (May 4, 2020) [interim final rule](#), Medicare will cover certain COVID-19 tests performed by pharmacists. [Click here for NCPA summary.](#)