

COVID-19 Testing by Pharmacists

HHS recently authorized pharmacists to order and administer COVID-19 tests. Pharmacies will need a CLIA Certificate of Waiver from the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) to participate in testing. It will be up to the pharmacy and the pharmacist-in-charge to deem all appropriate training for the testing to be completed. For anyone interested in conducting COVID-19 testing, please stay alert for any changes made by the FDA, HHS, MSDH, or MSBOP. **All test results (positive and negative) must be reported to MSDH with patient information.**

1. To apply for a CLIA Certificate of Waiver

A video has been produced by NCPA with helpful information that may be found at:
<http://www.ncpa.co/media/webinar/Fill-Out-CLIA-FORM.mp4>

The application and information concerning the CLIA waiver may be found at:
www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/CLIA/index.html.

2. Additional information needed by MSDH with the CLIA Certificate of Waiver application

- **Name and manufacturer of the test(s) used by the pharmacy;** for example: Abbott ID Now COVID-19 test. "COVID-19" would not be sufficient. Each manufacturer's test must be included in the application.
- **Do not include possible or future tests.** If a test is added later, that information may be emailed to MSDH, referencing the CLIA ID number in the message, when the pharmacy adds the test.
- **Print out the application and sign it.** The application requires a hard signature, but once signed, it may be submitted electronically to MSDH. **Do not send the 5 pages of instructions with the application.**
- **Scan and email the application to clia-msdh@msdh.ms.gov.**

3. Tests currently suitable for use at a pharmacy

- Abbott Diagnostics Scarborough, Inc. ID NOW COVID-19
- Mesa Biotech Inc. Accula SARS-Cov-2 Test
- Cepheid Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test

Please beware of fraudulent tests. Ask the company for documentation that the test has been CLIA waived before your pharmacy purchases. Also, as FDA approves more tests, these could be available, as well.

4. **All test results (positive and negative) must be reported to MSDH with patient information.**

- Positive results should be called to the MSDH Office of Epidemiology, 601-576-7725, AND reported either online or via fax.
- To access online reporting to the Mississippi State Department of Health, click on this [link](https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/static/14,15382,194.html) to request an account: [https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/ static/14,15382,194.html](https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/static/14,15382,194.html).
- If you are not able to report online, please fax the attached ***Pharmacy Report of COVID-19 Test Result to the Mississippi State Department of Health*** to 601-576-7497.