

Kentucky Statewide Physician Protocol for Point of Care COVID-19 Testing

Purpose

This statewide physician protocol signed by a physician with the Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services specifies the criteria and procedures for eligible pharmacies who have met the requirements established by the Kentucky Board of Pharmacy and in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth. **The following protocol is only applicable to Medicaid beneficiaries.**

*This signed protocol is intended for pharmacists that **do not** have a medical provider to issue a protocol.*

Point of Care COVID-19 Testing Protocol	
Pharmacy has an active CLIA Certificate of Waiver	• Guidance for SARS-CoV-2 Rapid Testing in Point-of-Care Settings should be reviewed prior to testing. • The Kentucky Office of the Inspector General, Division of Health Care, processes CLIA applications.
Testing Supplies	• Pharmacies should obtain appropriate point-of-care testing machine(s), testing cassettes, and specimen collection kits. • Pharmacy employees should have received training on the testing machine prior to offering testing to patients.
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	• CDC Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimen from Persons for COVID-19 Interim Guidelines have been reviewed by all pharmacy employees involved in point of care testing. • The pharmacy must obtain adequate PPE. • All pharmacy employees should be trained on minimum storage, disposal/recycling, and use of PPE.
Specimen Collection	• CDC Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimen from Persons for COVID-19 Interim Guidelines have been reviewed prior to specimen collection. • Policies and procedures are in place to address collection, storage, and transport of samples, including: • A pharmacist collects the specimen or aids in self-collection of the specimen, and it is tested by the pharmacy using a point-of-care test. • The pharmacy employee administering the test has reviewed the manufacturer instructions and is trained on the specific type of specimen collection. • Collection is encouraged to take place in an area that minimizes exposure to others in the pharmacy. • The pharmacy has identified a proper method of disposal of specimens and any PPE that may have been in contact with the patient.
Communication of Results	• Pharmacies must develop policies and procedures for reporting the test results to the patient and the patient's primary care provider on the same day as the test. • Pharmacies should review and share the CDC's Respiratory Virus Guidance with patients. • Pharmacies should ensure the patient has a mask or provide the patient with a mask.
Reimbursement for Point of Care Testing	• Pharmacies must enroll as a DME provider. • Pharmacies can then bill using their existing NPI on a CMS 1500 or 837 P electronic form. • Pharmacies should have a standing order from a licensed and enrolled Medicaid provider for COVID-19 testing. ○ This document will serve as the standing order for the Kentucky Medicaid Medical Director. • Current HCPCS codes of U0002 and CPT 87635 should be billed to Medicaid for COVID-19 testing

COVID-19 At-Home Antigen Tests	• FDA-approved at-home tests for COVID-19 may be covered through the pharmacy benefit. • This standing order will serve as a prescription for COVID-19 OTC tests only. A separate prescription is required for COVID-19 at-home tests that are “Rx only” products. • Pharmacies may fill up to 4 tests per member per rolling 90 days. • Additional tests may be approved via prior authorization when applicable.
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COVID-19 Antigen Testing Statewide Physician Protocol Signatures:

Judith Ann Theriot, MD (electronic signature)

Judith Ann Theriot, MD
Medical Director
Kentucky Department Medicaid Services
National Provider ID: 1811990476

October 6, 2025

Date Signed