NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Statewide Standing Order for COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing

Revised March 14th, 2024

This standing order authorizes any North Carolina licensed healthcare provider, in accordance with the conditions of their licensure, (including a physician, advanced-practice provider [nurse practitioner, certified nurse midwife, physician assistant], registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, licensed pharmacist, licensed dentist), and trained unlicensed personnel working under the supervision of a physician, advanced-practice provider, registered nurse, licensed pharmacist, or licensed dentist, in accordance with the conditions of their licensure, at a healthcare facility, pharmacy, medically-supervised, or other COVID-19 testing site in the state (collectively, "testers") to collect a respiratory specimen for COVID-19 diagnostic test, this standing order authorizes the healthcare facility, pharmacy, or testing site that submitted the specimen for COVID-19 diagnostic testing to receive the results of the test directly from the testing laboratory. This order is in no way intended to authorize a healthcare provider to practice outside their legally defined scope of practice.

COVID-19 Testing	
Condition or Situation	Patient (or parent/legal guardian on behalf of patient) presents requesting and consents to COVID-19 diagnostic testing.
Assessment Criteria	
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Plan of Care	
Actions	**1. Patient Education and Data Collection** a. Prior to collecting the specimen from the patient, the testing site shall provide information regarding testing to the patient, which at minimum shall include: • The manufacturer's authorized Fact Sheet for Individuals receiving the COVID-19 test, as it is available. • Fact Sheets for Individuals for molecular COVID-19 tests • Fact Sheets for Individuals for antigen COVID-19 tests • Where, how, and when to obtain the test result; • Information to follow while waiting for the test result and if the test result is positive Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) • Information on what to do and how to access medical care if needed • Information on resources, such as access to shelter or food, if needed, to adhere to control measures.
	2. Specimen Collection, Testing, and Test Results a. Consent must be obtained from the patient or the patient's legally authorized representative. b. Testing sites shall collect a specimen for a COVID-19 diagnostic test approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or authorized by the FDA through an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). c. Before collecting the specimen, don appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). The type of PPE should be based on the type of test collection procedure and the testing location and include strategies to minimize transmission. d. Follow specimen collection, specimen storage, and testing methodologies required by the manufacturer and/or laboratory partner. • Review the manufacturer's Instructions for Use (IFU) and Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers, as they are available, for the molecular COVID-19 test or antigen COVID-19 test you will be using.

	• Review the CDC's guidance on Collection and Handling of Specimens. e. If a deviated septum or blockage create difficulty in obtaining the specimen from one nostril, use the same swab to obtain the specimen from the other nostril. f. If submitted to a laboratory, the testing sites shall direct the laboratory to return the test result to the testing site.
Follow-up	**3. Follow up and Reporting** a. The test result must be reported to the patient by a trained representative of the testing site or made available by the testing site as soon as possible, but no more than 24 hours after testing site receives the result. The testing site shall also provide the test result to the patient's primary care provider, if available. b. North Carolina no longer requires reporting of COVID-19 test results, positive or negative. If you wish to continue reporting COVID-19 tests results, please see guidance here: https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/information/health-care/facilities-reporting-test-results c. If the test result is positive, inform the patient of the control measures that should be implemented based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance.
Contraindications for Use of this Order	There are no specific contraindications for collecting specimens. However, if the patient has had recent nasal trauma or surgery, has a deviated nasal septum or has a history of chronically blocked nasal passages or severe coagulopathy creating difficulty in obtaining a nasopharyngeal specimen, a physician or advanced practice provider (nurse practitioner, certified nurse-midwife, or physician assistant) should be consulted to discuss alternative specimen collection procedures.
Criteria or Circumstances for Notifying Medical Provider	Notify the physician or advanced practice provider (nurse practitioner, certified nurse-midwife, or physician assistant) from the organization providing clinical supervision of the testing site for questions or problems.

Approved by: _____ Date approved: 03/14/2024
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This order is effective immediately upon signing and may be revised or revoked by the State Health Director according to his/her discretion. If not revoked earlier, this order will expire December 31, 2024. Legal Authority North Carolina Session Law 2022-72, Sec. 9G.7.(a)-(e)