



Department of Health and Human Services
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
286 Water Street
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel: (207) 287-8016; Fax (207) 287-9058
TTY Users: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)

Maine Health Alert Network (HAN) System

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

To: All Health Care
From: Siiri Bennett, State Epidemiologist
Subject: **Standing Order for COVID-19 Testing**
Date / Time: Thursday, July 1, 2021 at 2:30PM
Pages: 2
Priority: Normal
Message ID: 2021PHADV014

Standing Order for COVID-19 Testing

On July 1, 2021, Maine CDC issued a revised Standing Order (“Order”) that authorizes health care providers or other trained personnel at a health care facility or medically supervised COVID collection site (“collection site”) in the state to collect and submit specimens of SARS-CoV-2 for molecular or antigen-based testing.

The Order is a physician’s order that authorizes lab testing for COVID-19 for any individual in Maine at least 12 months of age or older. The Order is not meant to replace existing patient-provider relationships or provider-laboratory relationships. It can assist people who believe that they have been exposed or have an elevated risk of exposure and who do not have a primary care provider, cannot discuss this exposure in a timely way with their health care provider, or are visiting Maine from another state, as examples.

The Order also authorizes the collection site that submitted the specimen for SARS-CoV-2 molecular or antigen testing under this Order to receive the results of the test directly from the testing laboratory. The Order further authorizes the laboratory that performed the test for SARS-CoV-2 to provide test results directly to the individual who was tested, with the individual’s consent.

- **The full Order is available on the Maine CDC website at:**

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/documents/StandingOrder-Update.pdf>

KEY POINTS FOR PROVIDERS

- The Order permits, but does not require, any health care provider or COVID-19 test collection site to provide a test. The Order is not meant to replace existing patient-provider relationships or provider-laboratory relationships.
- Individuals may obtain testing under this Order irrespective of their state of permanent residence so long as the specimen collection occurs within Maine.
- The Order for COVID-19 testing covers only molecular or antigen testing for COVID-19; it does not include antibody testing.
- All collection sites operating under the Order are responsible for contacting individuals with the results of their lab test.