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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

To: All Health Care
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Subject: Update to Standing Order for COVID-19 Testing
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Update to Standing Order for COVID-19 Testing

On January 14, 2022, Maine CDC issued a revised Standing Order (“Order”), effective date January 21, 2022, that authorizes health care providers or other trained personnel at a health care facility or medically supervised COVID-19 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. The Order is not meant to replace existing patient-provider relationships or provider-laboratory relationships. It can assist people who think they have been exposed or have an elevated risk of exposure and who do not have a primary health care provider, cannot discuss this exposure in a timely way with their health care provider, or are visiting Maine from another state, or require testing for another reason.

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.

Collection sites must provide individuals with appropriate guidance for self-quarantine if they identify as close contacts of someone with COVID-19, and for isolation if they test positive, following guidance available from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

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.
- The Order for COVID-19 testing covers only molecular or antigen testing for COVID-19; it does not include antibody testing.
- Individuals may obtain testing under this Order irrespective of their state of permanent residence so long as the specimen collection occurs within Maine.
- All collection sites operating under the Order are responsible for contacting individuals with the results of their lab test.