

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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STATEWIDE STANDING ORDER FOR COVID-19 TESTING

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Pursuant to the authority contained in Iowa Code section 135.11(1) and 135.141(2)(b), (e), (h), I, Robert Kruse, M.D., hereby issue the following Standing Order for COVID-19 Testing (Order):

**I. Purpose**

This Order is intended to sustain a level of testing for COVID-19 in Iowa and enhance the ability of Iowans to access COVID-19 testing. This Order is intended to provide authorization for COVID-19 testing which is not otherwise ordered through a treating health care provider, long term care facility medical director, or occupational health provider. This Order is intended to supplement and not supplant such existing testing.

**II. Legal Authority**

The Governor of the State of Iowa issued a proclamation of public health disaster emergency on March 17, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic. The state of public health disaster emergency was repeatedly extended and ultimately expired February 6, 2022.

Pursuant to Iowa Code section 135.141(2), the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) is authorized to establish and coordinate activities, including testing, as necessary for recovery from a public health disaster. This Order is further authorized pursuant to the federal Public Health Emergency Declaration initially issued January 31, 2020, and subsequent renewals, and related legal authorities. This Order authorizes qualified persons to conduct COVID-19 testing on eligible individuals and to submit such tests to a designated laboratory.

**III. Definitions**

For purpose of this Order, the following definitions shall apply:

*“COVID-19 test” or “COVID-19 testing”* means any SARS-CoV-2 PCR test including viral RNA and any serological test including antigen and antibody testing.

*“Eligible individual”* means an individual eligible for a COVID-19 test.

*“Qualified person”* means a person who is authorized to collect specimens for COVID-19 testing.

**IV. Authorization**

This Order authorizes a qualified person to perform COVID-19 testing on an eligible individual and to submit such test to a designated laboratory.

**V. Collection of Specimen**

A qualified person shall collect all specimens in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention “Guidelines for Clinical Specimens” in effect at the time of collection.

**VI. Storage of Specimen**

All specimens shall be stored as recommended by the designated laboratory prior to shipping to the laboratory.

**VII. Testing of Specimen**

All specimens shall be submitted for testing to the State Hygienic Laboratory or national reference laboratory as appropriate.

**VIII. Reporting of Test Results**

All COVID-19 test results shall be reported as required by Iowa Code section 139A.3, 641 IAC chapter 1, and the Mandatory Reporting Order issued January 1, 2023, and any subsequent modification to such order.

**IX. Contraindications**

Specimens should not be collected and the individual should be directed to immediate medical evaluation if the eligible individual appears toxic, is struggling to breathe, or is moribund.

**X. Medical Care**

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 should contact their health care provider for medical advice regarding their care, and individuals who do not have a health care provider should be encouraged to contact their local board of health for referral assistance. The issuance of this standing order does not establish a physician-patient relationship.

**XI. Immunities**

Federal Law. Federal law contains immunity provisions under the PREP Act, which provides that covered persons are immune from suit and liability under state and federal law with respect to all claims for loss caused by, arising out of, relating to, or resulting from the administration to or the use by an individual of a covered countermeasure. 42 U.S.C. § 247d–6d(a)(1). On March 10, 2020, the Secretary of Health and Human Services issued a Declaration pursuant to the PREP Act which identified COVID-19 as a public health emergency and classified COVID-19 tests as covered countermeasures. With respect to the administration or use of a COVID-19 test, “covered persons” include licensed health professionals authorized to prescribe, administer, or dispense countermeasures under the law of the State in which the COVID-19 test was prescribed, administered, or

dispensed. 42 U.S.C. § 247d-6d(i)(8). State law also contains immunity provisions related to COVID-19, including Iowa Code chapter 686D (COVID-19 Related Liability).

**XII. Effective date**

This Order shall provide authorization for COVID-19 testing performed from the date of this Order, through December 31, 2023, unless sooner terminated or modified by subsequent order of the Department.



Robert Kruse, M.D.

Date: January 1, 2023