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## **COVID-19 Response Efforts and Fraud Notice - May 27, 2020**

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The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy is committed to protecting the health and safety of Ohioans during the COVID-19 outbreak. The Board posted a document on its website that provides COVID-19 guidance and response efforts, including the issuance of waivers to assist licensees in addressing operational needs. This document will be updated regularly and can be accessed by visiting:

[www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVID](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVID).

For more information on the state's efforts to address coronavirus, visit [www.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov) or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.

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### **Important Notice to All Licensees Regarding Fraudulent Prescriptions**

The Board has been made aware of an increasing number of fraudulent prescriptions for promethazine/codeine being dispensed at this time.

These fraudulent prescriptions are generated using two primary techniques:

- Phone-in prescriptions: suspects will download apps to generate VoIP phone numbers which are then used to impersonate prescribers and fictitious patients. The suspects then call pharmacies and order promethazine/codeine, accompanied with a non-controlled substance such as Flonase, an inhaler, prednisone, or antibiotic. The suspect provides a DEA number, an NPI number, and in many instances, a diagnosis code. The caller also provides a generated number for the "patient." Unsuspecting pharmacies then call the "patient" once the prescription is filled, and the "patient" typically tells the pharmacy that a relative will pick it up. Pharmacies sometimes call the number left for the prescriber to verify that the prescription is valid, and they end up speaking with the suspect again.
- Paper prescriptions: suspects may produce fraudulent prescriptions on valid Rx paper.

To help combat these fraudulent prescriptions, it is recommended that pharmacies verify promethazine/codeine prescriptions with the practitioner's office by means other than the phone numbers provided on the prescriptions.

Additionally, pharmacies and/or pharmacists must report all incidents of prescription fraud to the Board of Pharmacy. Reports to the Board may be filed online by visiting:

[www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/complaint](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/complaint).

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### **Expansion Pharmacist, Pharmacy Intern, and Certified Pharmacy Technician Testing Authority During COVID-19**

**UPDATED 5/27/2020**

On May 27, 2020, the Board issued an updated guidance on pharmacy personnel conducting COVID-19 testing. Specifically, it clarifies that pharmacists can order COVID-19 testing per guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

To access the updated guidance, visit: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVIDtest](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVIDtest)

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### **Additional Delay of ARCOS Review Requirement for Drug Distributors**

**UPDATED 5/27/2020**

The Board has been made aware of certain data issues associated with the Drug Enforcement Administration's ARCOS drug distributor lookup tool, as required by paragraph (G)(1)(d)(iii) of rule

Therefore, the requirement to check the ARCOS tool as part of the customer due diligence requirements has been further delayed to **November 29, 2020**. The Board is working closely with DEA and will provide additional updates to licensees when reported data issues have been resolved.

More information on the delay of these requirements can be accessed [here](#).

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## **Drug Compounding Resolutions and Guidance During COVID-19** **UPDATED 5/27/2020**

On May 21, 2020, the FDA updated two guidances for the temporary compounding of certain human drugs during the COVID-19 public health emergency. These updates clarify certain policies to address urgent needs for hospitalized COVID-19 patients.

Please be advised that the Board has updated its own guidance to incorporate these policy updates. The Board's compounding resolutions and guidance document can be accessed by visiting: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVIDcompounding](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVIDcompounding).

The Board has also updated its outsourcing facility resolution to incorporate FDA's updated temporary policy for outsourcing facilities: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/osf20](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/osf20).

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## **Responsible RestartOhio Requirements for Board of Pharmacy Licensees** **UPDATED 5/26/2020**

On April 30, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued a Director's Stay Safe Ohio Order. This order permits all businesses, except those specifically [listed in the order](#), to reopen or remain open as long as all workplace safety standards are met. A copy of the order may be reviewed [here](#).

***Please be advised that the order issued on April 30, 2020 is applicable to all Board of Pharmacy licensees. Any additional public health orders issued by the Director of Health since April 30, 2020 are related to the operations of businesses that were not deemed essential by the original stay at home order or easing other restrictions (i.e. out-of-state travel).***

The order implements uniform requirements that pharmacies, wholesalers, and other Board of Pharmacy licensees and registrants are required to comply with to remain open. The Board has posted more information about complying with this order and the Responsible RestartOhio requirements here: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/RestartOhio](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/RestartOhio).

Licensees **are strongly advised to review** the applicable [Responsible RestartOhio Requirements](#). As a reminder, these requirements include the following:

- Ensure minimum of 6 feet between employees, if not possible, install barriers.
- Businesses must require all employees to wear facial coverings, except for one of the reasons specified in the Responsible RestartOhio Requirements.
- Ensure minimum 6 feet between customers/patients/etc.
- Employees must perform daily symptom assessment.
- Require employees to stay home if symptomatic.
- Require regular handwashing by employees.
- Place hand sanitizers in high-contact locations.
- Clean high-touch items after each use.

**IMPORTANT:** The above requirements do not represent an exhaustive list and licensees and registrants should consult the [Responsible RestartOhio Requirements](#) document for further information.

**These requirements replace all previously issued guidance on how licensees are to maintain clean and sanitary conditions during COVID-19.**

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