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

Updated 4/8/2020

In order to address testing capacity during the COVID-19 outbreak, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy has adopted the following guidance expanding the authority of pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and certified pharmacy technicians to conduct FDA-authorized COVID-19 testing under certain conditions.

This guidance is being issued in accordance with a Board resolution adopted on March 2, 2020.

A pharmacist, pharmacy intern, and certified pharmacy technician may administer FDA-authorized COVID-19 tests, under the following conditions:

- Interns and certified pharmacy technicians must be under the supervision of a pharmacist. This means that a pharmacist is present at the location conducting testing to answer questions of a pharmacy intern or technician and shall be responsible for the practice of that pharmacy intern or technician.

- The standard 2:1 pharmacy intern to pharmacist ratio, as required by rule 4729:2-1-01 of the Administrative Code, is hereby waived. **NOTE:** There is no certified pharmacy technician supervision ratio in administrative rule. A pharmacist must use their professional judgement to determine the appropriate level of staff a pharmacist may appropriately supervise.

- The terminal distributor of dangerous drugs responsible for the administration of COVID-19 testing shall ensure all pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and certified pharmacy technicians conducting COVID-19 testing receive appropriate training to conduct testing in a safe and effective manner.

This resolution and guidance shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Board.