



## **ALERT: Medicaid Provider Partnership Required to Support COVID-19 Testing Goals**

To continue making progress in our fight against COVID-19, Governor Larry Hogan has established a goal of testing 10 percent of the Maryland population. “Widespread testing is critical to saving lives and safely reopening more and more of our economy, which is why state health officials are setting a goal of testing 10 percent of the population in all of our 24 jurisdictions,” said Governor Hogan.

To achieve this crucial milestone, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) requires the support of Medicaid providers in contacting your patient panels and encouraging them to seek a COVID-19 test. We are encouraging providers to build testing capability in your offices. This will provide for a more sustainable long-term solution to COVID-19, and it allows the provider to be closely involved through both the diagnostic and treatment stages. Here are the CDC guidelines:

- [Infection prevention and control practices, including use of recommended personal protective equipment \(PPE\), for COVID-19 test specimen collection](#)
- [Collecting, handling, and testing clinical specimens from persons for COVID-19](#)

For those who are not ready to provide testing, you may order tests for your members through CRISP: [Overview and instructions](#).

Our [website](#) has additional testing site locations.

As stated in MDH’s Amended Directive and Order Regarding Various Healthcare Matters issued on June 12, 2020, the following populations should now be prioritized for testing:

- Any symptomatic individual
- Asymptomatic individuals where COVID-19 exposure may be possible, including:
  - contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases
  - residents and staff of congregate living settings and long-term care facilities
  - healthcare workers and first responders
  - patients, especially high-risk unstable patients, whose care would be altered by a diagnosis of COVID-19
  - individuals employed in close contact settings
  - individuals previously in a large gathering
  - individuals directed to be tested by MDH who are associated with a cluster, outbreak or contact investigation