

Dear Governor Polis,

The Colorado Pharmacists Society and RxPlus and the pharmacists we represent continue to take care of patients and help combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Both through expanded testing, and as we get closer to developing a vaccine, we stand ready to help Coloradans in every corner of our state. Ninety five percent of people live within 5 miles of a pharmacy. Pharmacists are the 2nd most highly trained health care professional. In order to make sure that we are as ready and equipped as possible to TEST, TREAT and VACCINATE as a workforce, we urge you to consider the following Executive Order, that other states have similarly considered:

EXECUTIVE ORDER: PHARMACIST AUTHORITY FOR COVID-19 RELATED TESTING, TREATMENT AND VACCINE ADMINISTRATION

Whereas, on [DATE], I declared a State of Emergency due to the novel coronavirus, COVID-19; and

Whereas, this condition continues to endanger public health and safety; and

Whereas, healthcare facilities in Colorado are at capacity and short on staff and supplies; and

Whereas, pharmacists are highly respected, highly trained, and highly accessible healthcare professionals; and

Whereas, expanding access to COVID-19 testing and other tests for conditions that may present with similar symptoms is critical to Colorado public health response; and

Whereas, expanding access to COVID-19 vaccine (once available) and all vaccines if not otherwise authorized is critical to Colorado public health response; and

Whereas, pharmacists are trained—and in other states are authorized—to order, perform, interpret laboratory tests and initiate appropriate treatment based upon test results, as well as administer appropriate countermeasures;

Now, therefore, I, [NAME], Governor of Colorado, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of Colorado, do hereby Order that:

Pharmacists authorized to practice in Colorado may order laboratory tests, including COVID-19 tests approved or authorized by the FDA.

Pharmacists authorized to practice in Colorado may administer and interpret laboratory tests, including COVID-19 tests approved or authorized by the FDA, in accordance with state and federal laboratory testing rules and guidelines.

Pharmacists authorized to practice in Colorado may prescribe appropriate treatment, including COVID-19 treatment if approved or authorized by the FDA, treatment granted by an EUA, or by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, in accordance with state and federal protocols.

Pharmacists authorized to practice in Colorado may collect laboratory test specimens, including those used for moderate- and high-complexity tests, to send to a laboratory for processing.

Pharmacists authorized to practice in Colorado may order and administer FDA approved or authorized vaccines according to manufacturer package insert or ACIP guidelines, including COVID-19 vaccines approved or authorized by the FDA, , and other vaccines approved, on an emergency basis or by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

All insurers shall recognize pharmacists' authority under this executive order and shall provide coverage for activities related to the ordering, conducting and interpreting of laboratory tests, and vaccine assessment and administration by a pharmacist at the same payment levels as other healthcare providers in this state.

This Order shall be in effect for the duration of the State of Emergency herein referenced. Within a year following the end of the State of Emergency, the Board of Pharmacy shall implement rules for maintaining patient care best practices, to the extent allowed by statute, to include ordering, administering, and interpreting laboratory tests and vaccine administration in pharmacists scope of practice.

This order is effective [DATE].

To most effectively include pharmacists as part of the best solution for Coloradans, the most imperative portion of this Executive Order is parity of payment, most specifically through Medicaid. In order to help the most patients possible, it is critical we include the **1,277,431 lives** that are currently covered by the state's Medicaid plan. We do applaud the Department of Health Care Policy and Finance for recently allowing pharmacists to receive reimbursement as a medical provider for the flu vaccine; we would like to guarantee the same coverage for the COVID-19 vaccination. We ask that you work with HCPF and the Colorado Division of Insurance to continue to work with all health insurance plans and pharmacy benefit managers operating in the state to identify and remove any barriers for testing, treating and vaccinating appropriate patients in Colorado.

Thank you for your continued work and understanding of how critical pharmacists' help can be in combating the COVID-19 pandemic in CO.

Sincerely,



Emily Zadvorny, PharmD
Executive Director
Colorado Pharmacists Society



Ky Davis, PharmD
President
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