

COVID-19 and Diagnostic Testing



COVID-19 UPDATE

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As the world navigates the COVID-19 crisis, a significant amount of time and focus has been dedicated to testing. Testing is a critical component of the recovery process as it identifies individuals who are a) infected and may need treatment or b) have had the disease, recovered, and are ready to return to work.

We recognize that pharmacies are on the front-line of defeating the contagion, serving as a critical resource within the community. Rapid changes in the collective response may pose challenges to accessing the most appropriate diagnostic testing protocols for a pharmacy. Arete Pharmacy Network is working diligently to make diagnostic testing protocols available that you can adapt to suit your risk management approach.

Your Opportunity

Simple diagnostic testing can serve as [an avenue for a pharmacy to expand services offered to the community](#), particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

What You Need to Know

In order to perform diagnostic tests for COVID-19, strep, and other infections, pharmacies may be required to obtain a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Certificate of Waiver. If you do not currently have a CLIA Certificate of Waiver, we strongly encourage you to initiate the process by taking the steps outlined below:

- **Understand the process.** [Download the guidelines here.](#)
- **Complete the required training modules.** [Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention laboratory training page.](#)

- **Submit an application for the waiver. [Download the CLIA Application for Certification Form here.](#)**

Be aware that your state may have additional requirements, so be sure to check with your state board of pharmacy and/or regulatory agencies to verify that you meet those requirements.

[Associated Pharmacies Inc. \(API\)](#), Arete Pharmacy Network's sister company is currently monitoring the market for approved testing kits for COVID-19, as they become available. Regardless of where COVID-19 or other tests are acquired, a CLIA waiver may offer more opportunities to serve as a testing site for your community.

More About Diagnostic Testing...



The Antibody Test

This is one of the more promising diagnostic tests, which takes a blood sample from a finger prick to determine if an individual has been infected. The antibody test can potentially help determine the stage of infection. The test is inexpensive; provides results within minutes; and can be performed either at home or in the pharmacy.



The Strep Test

Imagine a scenario where a patient comes into your pharmacy complaining of a sore throat and fever. By performing a simple strep test, you can dispense the recommended antibiotic to treat the infection based on a positive test result.

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