



MARYLAND
Department of Health
State Board of Dental Examiners

Notice to All Maryland Dentists

Dentists May Now Perform COVID-19 Specimen Collection

Amended Directive and Order Regarding Various Healthcare Matters
August 6, 2020

Attached to this Notice is a link to the August 6, 2020 Amended Directive and Order Regarding Various Healthcare Matters issued by Maryland Health Secretary Robert R. Neall. The Order states in relevant part:

COVID-19 TESTING & REPORTING

1. C. iii. Test Sites – Specimen Collection

“In addition to those individuals already authorized to collect COVID-19 specimens for testing, any individual licensed, registered, or certified by MDH or a Maryland health occupations board who has appropriate training and supervision may collect COVID-19 test specimens. Individuals and entities offering to perform COVID-19 specimen collection are responsible for ensuring that individuals collecting specimens for testing have the appropriate training and supervision.”

A dental office may perform test analysis **ONLY** if it is licensed by federal and state authorities as a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA)-certified laboratory. Dentists who are interested in CLIA licensure shall enroll in the CLIA program and receive a Maryland laboratory license. Applications for State permits and CLIA may be obtained at <https://health.maryland.gov/ohcq/Labs/Pages/home.aspx>.

You are strongly urged to read the entire Order before providing specimen collection. Here is the link to Secretary Neall’s amended [Order](#) of August 6, 2020.

Please also keep in mind that if you are contacted by a patient who wishes to be tested for COVID-19, and you do not perform the test, you are directed by the Secretary of Health to order a test for the patient, regardless of whether the patient is symptomatic or asymptomatic. If the patient has a primary care provider, you may refer the patient to their primary care provider, or you may issue the COVID-19 testing order in your discretion.

Thank you for your cooperation.

[Order](#)