Notice to All Maryland Dental Licensees

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.