John Bel Edwards
GOVERNOR

Dr. Courtney N. Phillips
SECRETARY

State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health

EMERGENCY ORDER
COVID-19 TESTING BY PHARMACISTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners
Louisiana Board of Pharmacy

FROM: LDH Office of Public Health
Jimmy Guidry, M.D. *Jimmy Guidry, M.D.*
State Health Officer

RE: Emergency Order
COVID-19 Testing by Pharmacists

DATE: April 15, 2020

EFFECTIVE DATES: This Emergency Order shall be effective as of 11:59 p.m. on April 15, 2020, and shall extend through the declared public health emergency, unless otherwise modified, revoked, or suspended by subsequent order of the State Health Officer.

RATIONALE AND LEGAL AUTHORITY:

On January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern" (PHEIC). On January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the United States, effective January 27, 2020. Pursuant to the Louisiana Health Emergency Powers Act, R.S. 29:760, *et seq*., a state of public health emergency resulting from the outbreak of "coronavirus disease 2019" ("COVID-19") was declared to exist in the entire State of Louisiana by Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020.

In the days since the referenced declaration of a state of the public health emergency in the state, the COVID-19 outbreak in Louisiana expanded significantly. Testing for COVID-19 is an additional measure necessary to protect the health and safety of the public. The measures ordered herein are in line with the best guidance and direction from

the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health and Human Services Department.

The Louisiana Board of Pharmacy and the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners are boards under the Louisiana Department of Health. The State Health Officer has determined that allowing licensed pharmacists to order FDA-authorized COVID-19 testing during this declared health emergency is appropriate and necessary to help control and prevent further spread of COVID-19, a communicable, contagious, and infectious disease that represent a serious and imminent threat to the public health.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers vested in me by L.R.S. 40:1 *et seq*., particularly La. R.S. 40:4(A)(13) and La. R.S. 40:5(A)(2), I, Jimmy Guidry, M.D., State Health Officer, do hereby issue the following emergency order:

> **Effective 11:59 p.m. on April 15, 2020, and continuing through the declared public health emergency in Louisiana, licensed pharmacists shall be permitted to order FDA-authorized COVID-19 laboratory tests in Louisiana.**
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> **Further, the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy has previously ruled that licensed pharmacists can perform moderately complex tests; the screening, administration, and reporting related to the COVID-19 testing would be covered under that previous ruling by the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy.**

End of Order.