

# Provider Update

*This update contains pertinent information about changes that will impact the Johns Hopkins HealthCare provider network.*

## Support Governor Hogan's COVID-19 Testing Goals

**Effective Date:** Immediately

**Line(s) of Business Affected:** Priority Partners

**Action:** Encourage your patient panels to have a COVID-19 test

**Explanation:**

To continue making progress in our fight against COVID-19, Governor Larry Hogan has established a goal of testing 10 percent of the Maryland population. "Widespread testing is critical to saving lives and safely reopening more and more of our economy, said Hogan, "which is why state health officials are setting a goal of testing 10 percent of the population in all of our 24 jurisdictions." To achieve this crucial milestone, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) requires the support of Priority Partners providers in contacting your patient panels and encouraging them to seek a COVID-19 test. You may do this in one of two ways:

1. **Build testing capabilities in your offices.** This will provide for a more sustainable long-term solution to COVID-19, and it allows the provider to be closely involved through both the diagnostic and treatment stages. Here are the CDC guidelines:
  - [Infection prevention and control practices, including use of recommended personal protective equipment \(PPE\), for COVID-19 test specimen collection](#)
  - [Collecting, handling, and testing clinical specimens from persons for COVID-19](#)
2. **Order tests for your Priority Partners patients.** For those providers who are not ready to provide testing, you may order tests for Priority Partners members through CRISP: [Overview and instructions](#). The [MDH website](#) has additional testing site locations.

As stated in MDH's Amended Directive and Order Regarding Various Healthcare Matters issued on June 12, 2020, the following populations should now be prioritized for testing:

- Any symptomatic individual
- Asymptomatic individuals where COVID-19 exposure may be possible, including:
  - contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases
  - residents and staff of congregate living settings and long-term care facilities
  - healthcare workers and first responders
  - patients, especially high-risk unstable patients, whose care would be altered by a diagnosis of COVID-19
  - individuals employed in close contact settings
  - individuals previously in a large gathering
  - individuals directed to be tested by MDH who are associated with a cluster, outbreak or contact investigation

Priority Partners will be communicating directly to our members to encourage them to get tested.

*Please contact the JHHC Provider Relations department at 888-895-4998 with any questions or concerns.*