What the end of the COVID-19 PHE means for you and your patients

The end of the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) will greatly impact costs and accessibility for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) testing. **We're here to help you navigate new policies and support you with quality, affordable testing solutions for patients.**

Key post-PHE COVID-19 testing changes for providers and patients

Private health insurance companies are **no longer required to provide free COVID-19 tests**; Medicaid and Medicare enrollees may still be eligible for free testing for a limited time.[1-3]

Retail testing (ie, pharmacy) may not be available and patient-initiated testing may not be covered, driving more demand for testing performed at a health care facility.

Many insurance companies are including testing as a benefit, but **members may be responsible for paying their copay or a deductible based on their benefit plan.**[a]

Many insurance companies are requiring patients to be symptomatic in order for testing to be covered as a plan benefit. **Including relevant ICD-10 codes associated with symptoms may better inform coverage decisions.**

[a] Coverage may vary within individual insurance plans.

To stay up-to-date with the latest COVID-19 testing information from Sonora Quest and to view all available tests, **visit us online at SonoraQuest.com/PostPHEUpdates**

Continuing to support you and your patients with COVID-19 testing

Respiratory illnesses persist year-round—and symptoms overlap—which can make it challenging to confirm a diagnosis. We offer a comprehensive portfolio of COVID-19 testing, including NAAT and respiratory molecular combination tests, which use a single specimen to test for COVID-19 and common respiratory viruses.

For COVID-19 testing send patients with a test order for nasal or nasopharyngeal sample collection to one of nearly 60 Sonora Quest Patient Service Centers for timely, accurate results that can help with a faster diagnosis so that you can develop an appropriate care plan.

COVID-19 Combination Testing with Sonora Quest

We are committed to supporting our community with a complete portfolio of COVID-19 tests, including our gold-standard PCR (molecular) laboratory testing, and respiratory combination testing, which use a single specimen to test for COVID-19 and other respiratory pathogens (RSV and flu A/B). Coverage scenarios will vary by health plan, and some eligibility requirements apply.

→ A health care provider's order is necessary for patients to receive any COVID-19 combo testing. These tests are not available by My Lab ReQuest™ or ICATT.

→ COVID-19/Flu is recommended for average healthy adults, while COVID-19/Flu/RSV is recommended for pediatric patients, the elderly, pregnant women, the immunocompromised, or those that have other underlying health concerns.

→ Providers should include all symptoms and conditions through ICD-10 codes, which will be very important for health plan decisions on coverage for each patient.

Identifying the source of infection is the first step in managing patient care

Sonora Quest offers the convenience of co-testing for influenza A and B and RSV in conjunction with testing for SARS-CoV-2.

Test Name	Test Code	CPT Code(s)	Sample
SARS-CoV-2 RNA (COVID-19), Qualitative NAAT	907080	87635	Nasopharyngeal; Nasal
SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) and Influenza A/B, Qualitative, NAAT	907258	87636	Nasopharyngeal; Nasal
SARS-CoV-2 RNA, Influenza A/B, and RSV RNA, Qualitative NAAT	804283	87635, 87631	Nasopharyngeal

Protect your patients from unexpected costs

With patients now facing out-of-pocket costs for COVID-19 testing, it's imperative to send your patients to an in-network lab like Sonora Quest to help them save money.

- Contracted and in-network with the majority of health plans in Arizona.

- Lower out-of-pocket testing costs when testing with an in-network lab.

- $0 out-of-pocket testing costs for qualified uninsured patients via the CDC's Increasing Community Access to Testing (ICATT) program. For eligibility patients can visit *SonoraQuest.com/covid-testing*

To discuss which COVID-19 testing options are right for you and your patients contact your Account Manager.

COVID-19 testing statements
- The molecular tests have not been FDA cleared or approved;
- All tests have been authorized by FDA under EUAs for use by authorized laboratories;
- The molecular tests have been authorized only for the detection of nucleic acid from SARS-CoV-2, not for any other viruses, pathogens; and,
- All tests are only authorized for the duration of the declaration that circumstances exist justifying the authorization of emergency use of in vitro diagnostics for detection and/or diagnosis of COVID-19 under Section 564(b)(1) of the Act, 21 U.S.C. § 360bbb-3(b)(1), unless the authorization is terminated or revoked sooner.

References
1. CMS. CMS waivers, flexibilities, and the transition forward from the COVID-19 public health emergency. February 27, 2023. Accessed March 27, 2023.
   https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/cms-waivers-flexibilities-and-transition-forward-covid-19-public-health-emergency
2. Cox C, Kates J, Cubanski J, et al. The end of the COVID-19 public health emergency: details on health coverage and access. KFF. February 3, 2023. Accessed March 28, 2023.
   https://www.kff.org/policy-watch/the-end-of-the-covid-19-public-health-emergency-details-on-health-coverage-and-access/
3. Cox C, Kates J, Cubanski J, et al. Commercialization of COVID-19 vaccines, treatments, and tests: implications for access and coverage. KFF. February 13, 2023. Accessed March 28, 2023.
   https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/commercialization-of-covid-19-vaccines-treatments-and-tests-implications-for-access-and-coverage/

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