



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

LISA J. PINO, M.A., J.D.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

Dear Pharmacist,

On June 23, 2021, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that New York will end the state disaster emergency declared on March 7, 2020 to fight COVID-19. Given New York's dramatic progress against COVID-19, with the success in vaccination rates and declining hospitalization and positivity statewide, the state of emergency expired Thursday, June 24. Therefore, the Executive Order permitting licensed pharmacists to be designated as qualified healthcare professionals for the purpose of directing a limited service laboratory (LSL) that performs COVID-19, influenza virus and respiratory syncytial virus testing, has been discontinued effective June 25, 2021.

Pursuant to the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act, pharmacists may continue to order and administer coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) diagnostic tests as long as the PREP Act is in effect. However, to continue to order and administer COVID-19 tests under the LSL issued to your facility, a new director who meets the definition of a qualified healthcare professional pursuant to Section 571(6) of the New York State Public Health Law must be identified. Qualified healthcare professionals include a physician, dentist, podiatrist, physician assistant, specialist assistant, nurse practitioner, or midwife, who is licensed and registered with the New York State Education Department.

Within 30 days of receipt of this letter, a completed [Change in Laboratory Director](#) form must be submitted via email to the Department. Your facility will be allowed to continue COVID-19 testing while this change is processed. If the required form is not submitted within 30 days, the LSL registration will be considered expired and all testing at the facility must cease.

Questions related to this notice can be directed to clepltd@health.ny.gov.