



Pennsylvania
Pharmacists
Association

UPDATES End of PHE

What it Means for Pharmacists

May 5, 2023

Margie Lydon, RPh

margiemlydon@gmail.com

267-243-4226

Bottom line for Pennsylvania Pharmacists and staff

1. Liability immunity continues for FDA's **EUA** COVID-19 Countermeasures (vaccines, boosters, tests, treatments) until the expiration of the PREP Act on December 31, 2024.
Liability immunity under PREP Act does not apply to commercially available products.
2. EUAs are expected to be extended beyond PHE until FDA approval.
3. **Qualified*** Techs, students and pharmacists can still provide COVID-19 and flu vaccines for patients **3 years** and older until expiration of PREP Act, December 31, 2024.
Anticipated amendment expected to remove routine childhood vaccine administration authority.
4. Anticipated amendment removes Pharmacists' authority to dispense and administer COVID-19 Countermeasures in states other than where licensed.
5. Anticipated amendment removes Pharmacists' and pharmacy interns' authority to administer influenza vaccine in states other than where licensed.

Bottom line for Pennsylvania Pharmacists and staff

6. Coverage for COVID-19 vaccines, tests and treatments changes for Medicare and private insurance.
End free OTC COVID-19 tests May 11,2023 with end of PHE.
COVID-19 lab tests (like PCR) will be covered only if ordered by a physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant. Pharmacists can perform CLIA waived test but will not be paid if they order it.

7. Test to Treat- only Paxlovid, Lagevrio & Remdesivir authorized currently.
Positive test no longer needed if exposed or symptomatic.
Reporting of test results to CDC not required after May 11, 2023, end of PHE
Nursing homes/ LTC have separate requirements for reporting in line with infection prevention.

8. Commercialization of COVID-19 Countermeasures timeline and supply chain unclear.
Only the bivalent formulations are authorized for use at this time.
It is anticipated that a booster dose will be recommended in late Summer to Fall along with the annual flu vaccine. Immunocompromised patients may receive a second booster dose.

9. **Prescription log signatures needed on May 11,2023 and following.**