

COVID-19 Provider Updates

October 14, 2020

Please let us know how we're doing by taking
this [brief survey](#)!

Want to stay updated?

Click [here](#) to subscribe

COVID-19 Quick Hits

Baltimore City [clinician page](#) & COVID-19 [dashboard](#)

Recovery and Isolation

1. Baltimore Convention Center Field Hospital is a well-equipped setting for patients who require extra support as they convalesce from COVID-19. See [here](#) to find out if this option should be used for your patients who are medically complicated and vulnerable if recovering at home unmonitored, but not ill enough to require acute hospital care.
2. The CDC has [updated guidance](#) regarding discontinuing home isolation based on being symptom-free for at least 24 hours (reduced from 72 hours).
3. The [Triage, Respite, and Isolation \(TRI\) Center](#) at Lord Baltimore Hotel is still accepting provider- or self-referrals for people unable to safely self-isolate at home.

Testing and Reporting

1. ***NEW UPDATE*** Everyone tested at BCHD mobile sites or BCHD's Pimlico site will receive their results via a phone call from the BCHD call team. At that point, they

can request a pdf copy of the laboratory result via email, or a paper copy mailed to their address. Depending on the laboratory used for testing, people tested through BCHD will receive paper instructions on how/when to create an account via online lab portal (e.g. Cian, Lab Corp). The instructions for online lab portal creation can also be sent via the BCHD call team. If people are having trouble getting results, then they can call the BCHD COVID call center at **443-984-8650**. Hours are Monday through Friday from 8 am-6 pm and Saturday 9 am-1 pm.

2. ***NEW UPDATE*** If your office is contracting with a commercial lab to conduct COVID testing, ensure that the laboratory you have contracted with is approved by the Maryland Office of Health Care Quality (OHCO) for COVID testing, and has received a Maryland COVID number. Click [here](#) for a list of approved laboratories.
3. ***NEW UPDATE*** Please click [here](#) to refer to Maryland Department of Health's new interim guidance for use of COVID-19 Point of Care testing for diagnostic or screening purposes and for interpretation of the results.
4. ***NEW UPDATE*** The Maryland Department of Health has also released an updated list of devices approved for Point of Care testing in their amended directive regarding healthcare matters. Please click [here](#) to view other updates in this directive and click [here](#) to view their latest clinician letter containing more guidance on testing.
5. [COVID-19 is a reportable disease](#). Point-of-care test results can be updated through [CRISP](#) (if not already reporting to the Maryland Health Dept via another mechanism). [Providers are also required to report](#) COVID-19 cases by completing a case report form ([Form 1140](#)), which can be faxed to the Baltimore City Health Department at 410-625-0688.
6. See [here](#) for Baltimore City test site information including sites where patients can self-schedule testings, without a provider's referral.
7. Please refer to the Maryland Department of Health website for the most recent [testing priorities](#) when ordering COVID-19 testing. CDC has released [recommendations](#) regarding antibody testing.
8. Maryland Department of Health has updated its [COVID-19 test site website](#) with a "Find a testing site near you" feature to search by an address.
9. Please inform your patients who are positive for COVID-19 that the health department will be calling them to conduct contact tracing. When the phone rings, the caller ID will read "MD COVID" (240-466-4488). The health department will never ask for your patient's social security number, financial information, or their immigration status.

On Oct 1, the Maryland Department of Health updated answers to the most frequently asked testing questions [here](#). You can direct your patients to this information.

Recently Published Research

Lyu W, Wehby GL. Community Use Of Face Masks And COVID-19: Evidence From A Natural Experiment Of State Mandates In The US. *Health Aff (Millwood)*. 2020 Aug;39(8):1419-1425. doi: 10.1377/hlthaff.2020.00818. Epub 2020 Jun 16. PMID: 32543923. [Link](#)

Peeples L. Face masks: what the data say. *Nature*. 2020 Oct;586(7828):186-189. doi: 10.1038/d41586-020-02801-8. PMID: 33024333. [Link](#)