

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Contact:

Dan Sweet – RP3 Agency

301-760-3207

[dsweet@rp3agency.com](mailto:dsweet@rp3agency.com)

April 9, 2020

**Statement by Pharmacists for Healthier Lives on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Decision to Authorize Licensed Pharmacists to Order and Administer COVID-19 Tests**

“Pharmacists for Healthier Lives – a diverse coalition of national and local pharmacy organizations – applauds the decision by HHS to allow licensed pharmacists to order and administer COVID-19 tests during this devastating pandemic.

“Expanding testing for the COVID-19 virus is a critical component in our nation’s efforts to reduce the number of cases, ease burdens on our over-utilized hospitals and clinics, and protect the safety of our communities.

“As one of the nation’s most accessible healthcare professionals - 90 percent of our population lives within 5 miles of a pharmacy - pharmacists are on the front lines of this crisis, and already play a vital role in providing information and health services to patients in a variety of settings.

"Allowing licensed pharmacists to order and administer COVID-19 testing means much greater testing in metropolitan, suburban and rural settings, providing vital information about the spread of the disease, helping to "flatten the curve" and increasing patient safety.

"This decision will also help to reduce the burden on our hospitals and clinics, allowing them to dedicate more resources to patient care.

“Our nation’s pharmacists stand ready to continue our fight against COVID-19 and are dedicated to all they can to ensure we come out of this pandemic as strong as possible.”