



**State Representatives
Thomas E. West and Allison Russo**

Director Maureen Corcoran
Ohio Department of Medicaid
50 West Town Street, Suite 400
Columbus, OH 43215

June 4, 2020

Dear Director Corcoran,

Thank you for your leadership in fighting for the health of our citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic. We write today to request that the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) quickly create a pathway for Ohio's pharmacists to bill ODM for the administration of COVID-19 tests, among other authorized medical services they might provide to manage ill Ohioans' health conditions during this public health crisis. Senate Bill 265 of the 132nd General Assembly permitted health insurers to provide payment or reimbursement to pharmacists.

As you know, Governor DeWine has spoken about the importance of having pharmacists on the frontlines in the fight against COVID-19, and he has emphasized how critical pharmacies are to ensuring access to testing across our state. As you further know, the Ohio Board of Pharmacy recently issued guidance clarifying federal instructions on how pharmacies should administer tests. Particularly given how Ohio's testing rates continue to lag well behind the 22,000 per day that the Governor called for by the end of May, any steps we can take to expand our testing capacity are worth implementing.

It is also well-documented that many trusted community pharmacists have been struggling financially, even more so since the onset of this pandemic. Asking for them to take on the additional burden of COVID-19 testing without reimbursement further impacts their financial well-being at a time when pharmacies, along with the rest of our health care infrastructure, are needed most.

That is why we write to you to ask that ODM take this critical step and create billing codes for COVID-19 specimen collection and testing so that pharmacists who care for Ohioans impacted by this pandemic can be appropriately reimbursed.

Please let us know how we, as state legislators, can support you – we stand ready and willing to assist in any way we can. Thank you for your leadership of the department and your service during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Thomas West in cursive script.

Thomas West
State Representative
Ohio House District 49

Handwritten signature of C. Allison Russo in cursive script.

C. Allison Russo
State Representative
Ohio House District 24