

November 19, 2020

Important News Updates

for Employers' Forum of Indiana Members

Dear Forum Colleagues,

Three significant news announcements were made this week regarding Amazon entering the pharmacy space, two coronavirus vaccines, and the first FDA-approved coronavirus home test. If interested in these topics, please read on below otherwise feel free to delete this message.



November 17, 2020

Amazon launches Amazon Pharmacy and Prime RX

On November 17, Amazon launched Amazon Pharmacy and Prime Rx. Since its acquisition of [Pill Pack](#) in 2018, we've been waiting to see what Amazon would do in this space. Below we've highlighted information about their two new programs. To learn more, see this [link](#). You may wish to contact your PBM to see how they plan to integrate.

Amazon Pharmacy

- Allows customers to complete an entire pharmacy transaction on their desktop or mobile device through the Amazon App.
- Using a secure pharmacy profile, customers can add their insurance information, manage prescriptions, and choose payment options before checking out.
- The medications offered will be a mix of generic and brand name, but no Schedule II controlled medications will be permitted.
- Amazon will screen for potentially negative drug interactions for those who order multiple types of medication.

Prime RX (seems akin to Good RX)

- Prime RX will work as Amazon Pharmacy's saving program administered by Cigna/Evernorth.

- Prime members can access savings on medications at Amazon Pharmacy when paying without insurance, as well as at over 50,000 other participating pharmacies nationwide.
- The Amazon Prime prescription savings benefit saves members up to 80% off generic and 40% off brand name medications when paying without insurance.
- Prime members will have access to their prescription savings at checkout on Amazon Pharmacy.



November 16, 2020

Pfizer and Moderna Announce Success of COVID-19 Vaccines

On November 9, Pfizer announced the success of its COVID-19 vaccine, and on November 16, Moderna did as well. Both show promising results and all need to think about how best to distribute. The federal government has given pharmacists broad authority to administer once they obtain supply. If interested in learning about Indiana's plan to distribute COVID vaccines, view [here](#).

Moderna

- 94.5% effective
- 2 doses
- Stored at minus 20 degrees Celsius for up to 6 months.
 - Once thawed, can be refrigerated for 30 days or room temperature for 12 hours.
- Aims to have 20 million doses ready by the end of 2020.
- Could produce 500 million to 1 billion doses in 2021.
- The U.S government will buy the vaccine for around \$24.80 a shot and distribute to the public for free.
- Currently in [Phase 3 testing](#)

Pfizer

- 90% effective per Pfizer on Nov 9th, but after Moderna announcement, Pfizer stated theirs was 95% effective.
- 2 doses
- Stored at minus 70 degrees Celsius (equivalent to minus 94 degrees Fahrenheit) for up to 6 months. Thus, must have ultra-low freezer. [Learn why here](#).
 - a) Once thawed, it can be refrigerated for 5 days.
 - b) Minimum Order Quantity of 975.

- Aims to have 30-40 million doses by the end of 2020.
- Could increase to producing 1.3 billion doses a year.
- The U.S government will buy the vaccine for around \$19.50 a shot and distribute to the public for free.
- Currently in [Phase 2 and Phase 3](#)

November 17, 2020

First FDA-approved Home Coronavirus Test

On November 17, the first FDA-approved home coronavirus test, Lucira COVID-19 All-In-One Test Kit, was approved under emergency use authorization. Highlights include:



- First test that can be fully administered and provide results at home: [Link to CDC News Release](#)
- According to the Lucira [Press Release](#):
 - a) This process takes up to 30 minutes, but a positive test result can be generated in as few as 11 minutes.
 - b) Test results were compared with one of the most reliable FDA authorized high sensitivity SARSCoV-2 assays available. The comparative positive results agreed 94.1% of the time across all samples, and 100% of the time excluding samples containing very low levels of virus (at or below 37.5 Ct). The negative results agreed 98.0% of the time across all samples.
 - c) Its COVID-19 test kit will initially be available on a limited basis in point of care settings and healthcare networks that prescribe the test for patients to use at home. Lucira is committed to making at home testing accessible and anticipates its test will cost around \$50.
 - d) The Lucira TM COVID-19 All-In-One Test Kit is expected to be available to patients served by Sutter Health in Northern California, and Cleveland Clinic Florida in Miami-Ft. Lauderdale, in the near future. By early spring 2021, it is expected to be available nationally through health care providers.

Lucira Website: [Link](#)

