

**COVID-19 Webinar for Laboratory Accreditation**

# **Q&A With The Joint Commission**

November 5, 2020



# Panel

**Robert Campbell, PharmD**  
Director, Clinical Standards Interpretation  
Hospital/Ambulatory Programs  
Director, Medication Management  
The Joint Commission

**Bridget Kapnick, MPH**  
Associate Director Accreditation  
The Joint Commission

**Barbara Schwarzer, MHA, MSOL,  
MT(ASCP), CPHQ**  
Field Director  
Accreditation and Certification Operations  
The Joint Commission

**Sylvia Garcia-Houchins, MBA, RN, CIC**  
Director  
Infection Prevention and Control  
The Joint Commission

**Herman A. McKenzie, MBA, CHSP**  
Director of Engineering  
Standards Interpretation Group  
The Joint Commission

**Cherie Ulaskas, MT(ASCP), MA**  
Associate Director  
Standards Interpretation Group  
The Joint Commission

**John Gibson, MA, MT(ASCP) DLM**  
Associate Director  
Standards Interpretation Group  
The Joint Commission

**Maura Naddy, MSN, RNC-OB**  
Associate Director  
Standards Interpretation Group  
The Joint Commission

# Topic for Today

Today's webinar will be focused solely on laboratory accreditation program related questions as they relate to COVID-19 and The Joint Commission.

For questions related to other accreditation or certification programs, please join us for those webinars.

# CMS 1135 Waivers

# Public Health Emergency (PHE) Extension



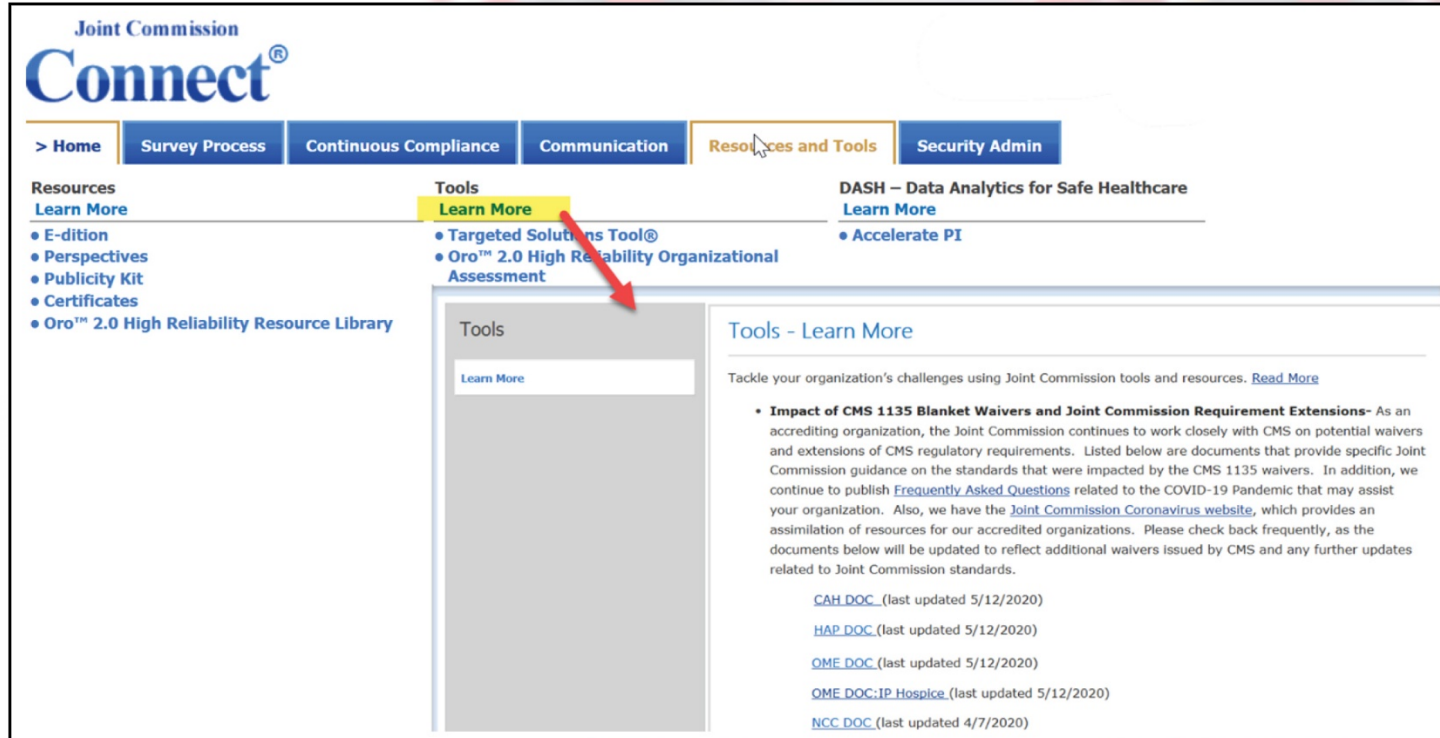
The Department of Health and Human Services released a statement on Friday, 10/02/20 stating the PHE was extended

The renewal effective date is Friday, 10/23/20 and will last for 90 days ★

This is the third extension of the PHE

★ 1135 Waivers will remain in effect during the declared PHE

# Looking for more information on CMS 1135 Waivers?



The screenshot shows the Joint Commission Connect website interface. The navigation menu includes: > Home, Survey Process, Continuous Compliance, Communication, Resources and Tools (highlighted), and Security Admin. Under Resources, there is a 'Learn More' link and a list of items: E-dition, Perspectives, Publicity Kit, Certificates, and Oro™ 2.0 High Reliability Resource Library. Under Tools, there is a 'Learn More' link (highlighted with a red arrow) and a list of items: Targeted Solutions Tool@ and Oro™ 2.0 High Reliability Organizational Assessment. Under DASH – Data Analytics for Safe Healthcare, there is a 'Learn More' link and a list of items: Accelerate PI. The main content area shows a 'Tools - Learn More' section with the text: 'Tackle your organization's challenges using Joint Commission tools and resources. [Read More](#)'. Below this is a bullet point: '• **Impact of CMS 1135 Blanket Waivers and Joint Commission Requirement Extensions-** As an accrediting organization, the Joint Commission continues to work closely with CMS on potential waivers and extensions of CMS regulatory requirements. Listed below are documents that provide specific Joint Commission guidance on the standards that were impacted by the CMS 1135 waivers. In addition, we continue to publish [Frequently Asked Questions](#) related to the COVID-19 Pandemic that may assist your organization. Also, we have the [Joint Commission Coronavirus website](#), which provides an assimilation of resources for our accredited organizations. Please check back frequently, as the documents below will be updated to reflect additional waivers issued by CMS and any further updates related to Joint Commission standards.' Below the text are several document links with their last updated dates: [CAH.DOC](#) (last updated 5/12/2020), [HAP.DOC](#) (last updated 5/12/2020), [OME.DOC](#) (last updated 5/12/2020), [OME.DOC:IP Hospice](#) (last updated 5/12/2020), and [NCC.DOC](#) (last updated 4/7/2020).

Accredited organizations can learn more by visiting **Resources and Tools > Tools > Learn More** in their *Joint Commission Connect*® extranet site.

# Infection Control Practices

# Pre-Submitted Questions

How long should an employee who tests positive for COVID-19 stay home?

Resource: CDC Criteria for Return to Work for Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection (Interim Guidance) last updated August 10, 2020 available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html>



# Pre-Submitted Questions

How do labs practice "social distancing" if the lab is not physically designed to allow for 6 foot separation?

Resource: CDC Guidance for General Laboratory Safety Practices during the COVID-19 Pandemic last updated August 15, 2020 available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/lab-safety-practices.html>

# Pre-Submitted Questions

What is the effect of using powdered gloves during Covid-19 sample collection?

Resource: FDA Medical Device Bans last update 04/06/2020 available at <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/medical-device-safety/medical-device-bans> and FDA: Banned Devices; Powdered Surgeon's Gloves, Powdered Patient Examination Gloves, and Absorbable Powder for Lubricating a Surgeon's Glove Dec 19,2016. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/12/19/2016-30382/banned-devices-powdered-surgeons-gloves-powdered-patient-examination-gloves-and-absorbable-powder>

# COVID-19 resources

Accreditation & Certification ▾

Standards ▾

Measurement ▾

Performance Improvement ▾

Resources ▾

About Us ▾

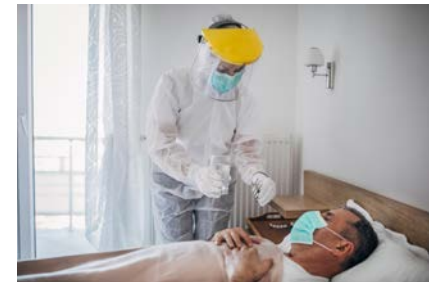
## What Your Organization Needs to Know About the Coronavirus

Trusted Guidance. Trusted Resources.

 [View resources](#)

# Thank You

We support your efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and hope to provide helpful resources



# Resources

- COVID Resources

- <https://www.jointcommission.org/covid-19/>

- Standards Interpretation

- <https://www.jointcommission.org/standards/standard-faqs/>