

## STATE OF NEW YORK OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

LETITIA JAMES ATTORNEY GENERAL DIVISION OF ECONOMIC JUSTICE CONSUMER FRAUDS & PROTECTION BUREAU

December 29, 2021

VIA HAND DELIVERY
ClearMD Health
734 Broadway
New York, New York 10003

Re: Misleading advertising regarding timing of COVID-19 test results

Dear Sir or Madam:

The New York State Office of the Attorney General ("OAG") has become aware that individuals have been waiting four or more days for COVID-19 test results from ClearMD Health, even though your website promises "COVID testing quick enough to keep up with the busiest of New Yorkers" "PCR results in as quick as 12-24 hours" and "currently, ClearMD has the fastest [test] turnaround time in New York—less than 24 hours." Moreover, some of these individuals paid a premium for results that they did not receive in the advertised time period. Misleading statements about when individuals can expect COVID-19 test results is especially concerning during the holiday season, since many individuals are relying on these test results to make decisions about whether they can travel or attend family gatherings. Individuals also need accurate information about the timing of COVID-19 test results so that they can decide between taking a rapid or PCR test, and make an informed decision between testing providers.

Pursuant to New York Executive Law § 63(12) and General Business Law §§ 349 and 350, the OAG has the authority to investigate and commence legal action to enjoin deceptive, fraudulent or illegal business practices, including but not limited to false advertising.

Upon receipt of this letter, please update your website and any signage at your test sites immediately to accurately reflect how long individuals can expect to wait before receiving COVID-19 test results. In addition, please immediately email any individuals who are awaiting COVID-19 test results to inform them of whether there will be any delays in receiving their results, and when their results can realistically be expected. Consumers who paid for expedited results not provided within the advertised time period should receive a refund. We also request that you instruct individuals working at the testing sites to provide accurate information concerning wait times to receive results.

We appreciate that there is undoubtedly an increase in demand for COVID-19 testing due to the holidays and Omicron variant. However, it remains important, especially during the holidays, to advertise and otherwise convey accurate information to consumers about when they can receive their

test results so that they can plan accordingly.

Please contact me to confirm that these steps have been completed.

We appreciate your prompt response and anticipated cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Laura J. Levine

Deputy Bureau Chief

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Bureau of Consumer Frauds and Protection

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