DHHS COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Testing Reporting Requirements

For facilities who are enrolled in electronic laboratory reporting (ELR), all COVID-19 tests performed at your facility must be reported to DHHS public health within 7 days of performing the test. This is the same regulation that applies for other respiratory virus test reporting such as influenza and RSV.

For facilities who do NOT report via ELR, it is not required to report your COVID-19 test results to DHHS public health. In the past, we established a reporting process using spreadsheets sent to DHHS EPI email address that were then uploaded using DHHS's Guardian system. This process has now been retired and is no longer in use.

DHHS COVID-19 Outbreak Reporting Requirements

CMS Certified Skilled Nursing Facilities:

LTCF Outbreak reporting to NHSN is fulfilled through completion of the Resident Impact and Facility Capacity Module and the Staff and Personnel Impact Modules. CMS certified facilities are required to report at least once every reporting week to these modules.

Reporting of COVID test results through the NHSN Point of Care (POC) testing module is no longer required by CMS.

For questions regarding NHSN reporting, please contact Dr. Salman Ashraf (Salman.Ashraf@nebraska.gov) or Lacey Pavlovsky (Lacey.Pavlovsky@nebraska.gov).

Other Care Settings:

If your facility does NOT fall under CMS Certified Skilled Nursing Facilities guidelines (i.e., assisted living facilities, hospitals, LTACH, outpatient clinics, etc.), you must report your COVID-19 outbreak to DHHS Public Health using DHHS's REDCap outbreak reporting survey. Previously, these outbreaks were reported using spreadsheets sent to the DHHS.EPI email address; this is no longer required so please do not submit such spreadsheets moving forward. A link to this REDCap survey can be found here: https://redcap.link/nebraska_outbreak. Listed below are further instructions on how to properly report using this survey:

> Step One – Report an outbreak at this link: https://redcap.link/nebraska_outbreak

Step Two – Complete the form by following the prompts. There is a button at the bottom that says next page followed by another next page, then click submit. Then decide on a password, click submit.

Step Three – Check your e-mail. You will receive two e-mails after clicking "submit" on the initial form the second time.

3a) One e-mail is a Password Reminder. Please keep this safe so you can refer to it later.

3b) The other e-mail includes links to enter in your Facility-Level information (how many total infections, hospitalizations, deaths, etc....), and a link to report Patient-Specific information. You can bookmark the "Queue Link" for future reference.

Step Four – Complete the Facility form by clicking the link in the e-mail.

Step Five – Complete the patient line list by adding a new patient using the queue link (found in the e-mail; this is optional)

Important Note: The REDCap survey should only be completed ***ONCE*** per outbreak. Multiple survey entries should ***NOT*** be submitted on the same outbreak. If you need to add/update information regarding your outbreak (i.e., have more residents or staff testing positive), please update your original survey by using the outbreak survey link that is automatically sent to your email upon submitting the original survey, as described above in Step 3b.

A more detailed PDF document outlining how to complete this survey is available upon request (titled "Instructions for ALF COVID-19 Outbreak Reporting").

For questions about the REDCap survey, please contact Derek Julian (derek.julian@nebraska.gov) or Andrew Delicata (Andrew.delicata@nebraska.gov).

For long-term care settings that are not certified by CMS (e.g., assisted living facilities):

Another option of reporting is to enroll your facility in NHSN and report your outbreak through the Resident Impact and Facility Capacity Module and the Staff and Personnel Impact Modules. If you are reporting through NHSN, then you do not need to submit the REDCap outbreak reporting survey. If you are not reporting through NHSN, then you must submit the REDCap survey as described previously.

Facility Enrollment Instructions for NHSN are available at https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/covid19/enroll.html. Please contact Lacey Pavlovsky (Lacey.Pavlovsky@nebraska.gov) for questions on facility enrollment.

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