



MEMO

To: Laboratories & Facilities Performing COVID-19 Testing
From: Timothy Tesmer, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Date: May 1st, 2023
RE: UPDATE for Public Health Reporting Requirements for COVID-19 Testing

The Public Law 116-136, § 18115(a), the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, required "every laboratory that performs or analyzes a test that is intended to detect SARS-CoV-2 or to diagnose a possible case of COVID-19" to report the results from each such test to public health. As of May 11, 2023, the Public Health Emergency is officially ending therefore this law will no longer be in effect for facilities testing for SARS-CoV-2, however, there will still be requirements based on Nebraska's current reportable disease rules and regulations, Title 173 Chapter 1, [https://www.nebraska.gov/rules-and-regs/regsearch/Rules/Health and Human Services System/Title-173/Chapter-01.pdf](https://www.nebraska.gov/rules-and-regs/regsearch/Rules/Health%20and%20Human%20Services%20System/Title-173/Chapter-01.pdf).

Coronaviruses are, and have been, included in the reportable disease list since 2017 and therefore must be reported along with all required data fields within seven days of testing. This applies **ONLY** to laboratories performing electronic lab reporting (ELR) as specified in 173 NAC 1-005.02C. All laboratories performing ELR must report positive and negative RT-PCR, antibody, and rapid antigen diagnostic test results to the Division of Public Health. All three test types should be clearly identified as PCR, antigen or serology/antibody. Reports should include complete patient demographic information and correct LOINC codes ([LOINC In Vitro Diagnostic \(LIVD\) Test Code Mapping for SARS-CoV-2 Tests](#)). This change aligns coronavirus reporting requirements with influenza and RSV.

Reporting of respiratory outbreaks is required by rules and regulations.

173 NAC 1 1-004.01B Clusters, Outbreaks, or Unusual Events, Including Possible Bioterroristic Attacks: Clusters, outbreaks, or epidemics of any health problem, infectious or other, including food poisoning, healthcare-associated outbreaks or clusters, influenza, or possible bioterroristic attack; increased disease incidence beyond expectations; unexplained deaths possibly due to unidentified infectious causes; and any unusual disease or manifestations of illness must be reported immediately.

The existing Guardian CSV upload reporting functionality will continue to be available to facilities for outbreak reporting. Reporting to NHSN will also meet this requirement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy Tesmer, MD".

Timothy Tesmer, MD
Chief Medical Officer
Division of Public Health
Department of Health and Human Services