Updated COVID-19 Reporting Requirements

Date: <mark>April 5, 2022</mark>

Public Health Message Type: ☐ Alert ☐ Advisory ☒ Update ☐ Information

Intended Audience: ☒ All public health partners ☒ Healthcare providers ☒ Infection preventionists
☒ Local health departments ☒ Schools/Childcare centers ☐ ACOs
☐ Animal health professionals ☒ Other: Pharmacies

Federal Reporting Requirements

[Public Law 116-136, § 18115(a),](#) the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, has required "every laboratory that performed or analyzed a test intended to detect SARS- CoV-2 or to diagnose a possible case of COVID-19" to report the results, positive and negative, from each such test to public health authorities. In this context, "laboratories" include testing locations operating as temporary overflow or remote locations for a laboratory, and other facilities or locations performing testing at point of care (POC[1]) or with at-home specimen collection related to SARS-CoV-2.

On March 8, 2022 the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced updates to [COVID-19 laboratory reporting guidance in the CARES Act Section 18115](#). Effective April 4, 2022, the new guidance will no longer require <u>federal</u> reporting of negative results for non-Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAAT) or antibody test results (positive/negative).

New Jersey Reporting Requirements

On March 20, 2020, the Director of the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security issued a memorandum directing that commercial laboratories operating in New Jersey report all COVID-19 test results to the New Jersey Department of Health beginning March 23, 2020.

UPDATE: New Jersey COVID-19 Test Reporting Requirements

NJDOH continues to require electronic reporting of**:**
- POSITIVE point of care (POC) antigen test results
- POSITIVE and NEGATIVE results for all molecular (e.g., PCR) AND antibody tests.

[1] Point-of-care tests are diagnostic tests performed at or near the place where a specimen is collected, and they provide results within minutes rather than hours. Tests may be performed at doctors' offices, pharmacies, schools, or many other locations.

As of April 4, 2022, the following <u>will no longer</u> be required:

- NEGATIVE POC antigen test results

Notes:

- While reporting NEGATIVE POC antigen laboratory test results to NJDOH is no longer required, they can continue to be reported to NJODH (it may be easier for some electronic laboratory reporting systems to report all POC test results).
- Self-tests are not CLIA-waived tests and are authorized for self-collection, self-testing, and self-reading of test results. Individuals are not required to report the results of at -home-self tests to public health authorities. Refer to [Public Health Considerations for COVID-19 Home-Based /Self-Tests](#) for additional information on when it would be beneficial to report self-test results.
- Although reporting negative antigen results to NJDOH is no longer required, organizations or businesses performing screening or other testing for covered entities consistent with Executive Order Nos. 252, 253, and 264 and Executive Directive No. 21-011 may require them, including those from home-based tests.

How to Report SARS-CoV-2 Test Results

While tests that are performed in a laboratory must be reported into the [Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System](#) (CDRSS), POC tests may either be reported through [SimpleReport](#) (https://simplereport.gov/) or CDRSS. Those that are currently successfully reporting POC results via CDRSS may continue to do so. Those who are not currently using CDRSS will likely find that SimpleReport is an easier, more user-friendly alternative for POC reporting.

SimpleReport Reporting Option

[SimpleReport](#) was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a fast, free, and easy way for COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) testing facilities to report POC test results to public health departments. It works with any COVID-19 rapid POC test and maintains HIPAA standards. NJDOH and local health departments will automatically receive test results for New Jersey residents and for persons tested at New Jersey facilities that are entered into SimpleReport.

To get started, testing providers should go to https://simplereport.gov/, click on Getting Started, and then [Onboard your Organization](#). Online [training resources](#) are available, including a user guide and videos. SimpleReport is managed and coordinated by CDC who provides [support](#) for users having problems logging in or who have other questions about using SimpleReport.

Onboarding with SimpleReport should take about one week. Until that process is complete, testing providers must continue to report COVID-19 test results, either through CDRSS or by reporting to the local health department. A directory of local health departments in N.J. is available at www.localhealth.nj.gov.

CDRSS Reporting Option

Those that are already reporting test results into CDRSS may continue to do so. It may be preferable for test administrators having electronic laboratory reporting capabilities (HL7 messaging) to report into CDRSS. Test results can also be manually entered into CDRSS. For new users, select the Quick Start Option for COVID-19 Training on the CDRSS home page (available at: https://cdrs.doh.state.nj.us/cdrss/login/loginPage/). Questions about reporting into CDRSS should be sent to cdrs.admin@doh.nj.gov.

Home-Based Tests

Positive test results from home-based tests that involve healthcare oversight or that are sent for testing in a laboratory must be reported to public health authorities. Self-tests are not CLIA-waived tests and are authorized for self-collection, self-testing, and self-reading of test results. Healthcare providers and organizations administering screening programs should notify the LHD of positive self-test results if there are concerns about exposures in high-risk settings or if the case may be associated with a possible cluster or outbreak so that public health action can be taken.

Testing and Reporting Resources
- Reporting POC test results through SimpleReport: https://simplereport.gov/support/
- Reporting test results (laboratory or POC) through CDRSS: email cdrs.admin@doh.nj.gov
- Public Health Considerations for COVID-19 Home-Based /Self-Tests