STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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January 3, 2023

RE: Requesting additional information accompanying SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) test results from health care providers, health care facilities, laboratories, local health jurisdictions, and the Department of Agriculture

Dear Laboratory Directors, Clinicians, and State Agency and Local Public Health Partners:

Summary

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) is committed in our ongoing efforts to prevent and control the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19). We appreciate all you are doing and have done to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic in these last three years.

Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-101-015, *Request for additional information or provisional notification and submission of specimen,* allows for the state health officer to request additional data components to be submitted with reports and specimen submittal of notifiable conditions. DOH requests continued reporting of critical COVID-19 testing and patient demographic data as required under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Submission requirements are outlined below.

Request

DOH requests all health care providers, health care facilities, laboratories, local health jurisdictions, and the Department of Agriculture report additional data components to accompany COVID-19 test results and specimen submission. Receiving these additional data is needed to properly prevent and control COVID-19 in Washington and to maintain compliance with federal reporting requirements under the CARES Act.

Background

The CARES Act, signed into law on March 27, 2020, includes a requirement for every laboratory that performs or analyzes a test intended to detect or diagnose a possible case of COVID-19 to report the results to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in a manner prescribed by the HHS Secretary until the end of the federally declared public health emergency. On June 4, 2020, HHS released laboratory data reporting guidance for COVID-19 that specified test results and patient demographic data must be collected and reported to state or local public health departments using existing reporting channels in accordance with state law or policies.

The Washington State Board of Health (Board) has the authority under RCW 43.20.050 to adopt rules for the prevention and control of infectious and non-infectious diseases. The purpose of chapter 246-101

WAC, Notifiable Conditions, is to provide critical information to public health authorities to aid them in protecting and improving public health through prevention and control of disease.
The Board adopted revisions to chapter 246-101 WAC in March 2021. Of the many revisions, COVID-19 was designated as a notifiable condition on a permanent basis. These revisions go into effect January 1, 2023. To maintain laboratory compliance with HHS reporting requirements and to ensure the governmental public health system has information to implement appropriate public health interventions, the Board adopted nine emergency rules to designate COVID-19 as a notifiable condition and require reporting of essential testing and patient demographic data until permanent rules became effective.

Under WAC 246-101-015, the state health officer may request additional data components to be submitted with each case report, laboratory report, specimen submittal, investigation report, outbreak report, or animal case report; submission of additional laboratory test results; and submission of additional specimens for a notifiable condition when they determine these data, test results, or submission of specimens is needed in order to properly prevent and control the condition. The state health officer may request additional information for a notifiable condition be reported for a period of 40 months.

In lieu of an emergency rule, DOH requests continued reporting of critical COVID-19 testing and patient demographic data as required under the CARES Act.

Reporting

DOH requests health care providers, health care facilities, laboratories, local health jurisdictions, and the Department of Agriculture report COVID-19 as follows:

Health care providers and health care facilities
Health care providers and health care facilities should continue to report positive cases of COVID-19 to their local health jurisdiction as required under WAC 246-101-101, WAC 246-101-105, WAC 246-101-110, WAC 246-101-115, and WAC 246-101-120 with the following adjustments:

- Report positive cases of COVID-19 to the local health jurisdiction within 24 hours
- Submit COVID-19 case reports via secure electronic data transmission using a file format or template specified by DOH
- Include the following data components in COVID-19 case reports:
    - Date of specimen collection (date format)
    - Ordering organization or health care provider's National Provider Identifier (as applicable) and affiliated organization (specific facility)
    - Patient's notifiable condition
    - Type of specimen tested

Laboratory directors

Laboratory directors should continue to submit COVID-19 laboratory reports to their local health jurisdiction as required under WAC 246-101-200, WAC 246-101-201, WAC 246-101-205, WAC 246-101-210, WAC 246-101-215, WAC 246-101-220, WAC 246-101-225, and WAC 246-101-230 with the following adjustments:

For laboratories licensed to conduct moderate or high complexity testing under chapter 70.42 RCW and chapter 246-338 WAC

- Report all positive, negative, and inconclusive COVID-19 results from nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) and antigen tests to the local health jurisdiction within 24 hours
- Submit COVID-19 laboratory reports via secure electronic data transmission using a file format or template specified by DOH
- In addition to those data components required under WAC 246-101-205, include the following data with COVID-19 laboratory reports:
    - Ordering organization or health care provider's National Provider Identifier (as applicable) and affiliated organization (specific facility)
    - Performing laboratory or facility name and CLIA number
    - Performing laboratory or facility address including zip code
    - Performing laboratory or facility phone number
    - Reporting entity name and CLIA number (or appropriate ID)
    - Reporting entity address including zip code
    - Device identifier
    - Accession number or specimen ID
    - Specimen source, using appropriate SNOMED-CT, SPM4 codes, or equivalently detailed alternative codes
    - Test ordered, performed, and resulted, using appropriate LOINC codes as defined by the Laboratory in Vitro Diagnostics (LIVD) Test Code Mapping for SARS-CoV-2 tests provided by the CDC
    - Test result (values) using appropriate SNOMED-CT codes as defined by the LIVD Test Code Mapping for SARS-CoV-2 tests provided by the CDC
    - Test result date (date format)
    - Pregnancy status
    - Other information of epidemiological value, upon request by the local health jurisdiction or DOH, such as genomic sequencing results or information to facilitate genomic sequencing

For laboratories licensed to conduct waived tests under a certificate of waiver under chapter 70.42 RCW and chapter 246-338 WAC (including facilities that conduct rapid screening or point-of-care testing)

- Report all positive COVID-19 results from waived tests to the local health jurisdiction within 24 hours
- Submit COVID-19 laboratory reports via secure electronic data transmission using a file format or template specified by DOH
- In addition to those data components required under WAC 246-101-205, include the following data with COVID-19 laboratory reports:
    - Ordering organization or health care provider's National Provider Identifier (as applicable) and affiliated organization (specific facility)
    - Performing laboratory or facility name and CLIA number

  - Performing laboratory or facility address including zip code
  - Performing laboratory or facility phone number
  - Reporting entity name and CLIA number (or appropriate ID)
  - Reporting entity address including zip code
  - Device identifier
  - Accession number or specimen ID
  - Specimen source, using appropriate SNOMED-CT, SPM4 codes, or equivalently detailed alternative codes
  - Test ordered, performed, and resulted, using appropriate LOINC codes as defined by the Laboratory in Vitro Diagnostics (LIVD) Test Code Mapping for SARS-CoV-2 tests provided by the CDC
  - Test result (values) using appropriate SNOMED-CT codes as defined by the LIVD Test Code Mapping for SARS-CoV-2 tests provided by the CDC
  - Test result date (date format)

For laboratories submitting COVID-19 specimens to the Washington State public health laboratories (PHL)

- Submit presumptive positive isolate, or, if no isolate is available, specimen associated with presumptive positive result within two business days of request from the local health jurisdiction or DOH
- In addition to those data components required under WAC 246-101-215, include the following data with COVID-19 specimen submission:
  - Ordering organization or health care provider's National Provider Identifier (as applicable) and affiliated organization (specific facility)
  - Performing laboratory or facility name and CLIA number
  - Performing laboratory or facility address including zip code
  - Performing laboratory or facility phone number
  - Reporting entity name and CLIA number (or appropriate ID)
  - Reporting entity address including zip code
  - Device identifier
  - Accession number or specimen ID
  - Specimen source, using appropriate SNOMED-CT, SPM4 codes, or equivalently detailed alternative codes
  - Test ordered, performed, and resulted, using appropriate LOINC codes as defined by the Laboratory in Vitro Diagnostics (LIVD) Test Code Mapping for SARS-CoV-2 tests provided by the CDC
  - Test result (values) using appropriate SNOMED-CT codes as defined by the LIVD Test Code Mapping for SARS-CoV-2 tests provided by the CDC
  - Test result date (date format)

Note: Results from antibody and self-administered tests should not be reported.

Local health jurisdictions

Local health officers, or local health jurisdictions, should continue to provide notification and submit investigation and outbreak reports for COVID-19 to DOH as required under WAC 246-101-505, WAC 246-101-510, WAC 246-101-513, and WAC 246-101-515 with the following adjustments:

- Notify DOH within three business days upon receiving a positive case of COVID-19
- Notify DOH within 30 business days upon receiving negative or inconclusive laboratory reports of COVID-19
- Submit investigation reports of COVID-19 within seven days upon completing the investigation
- Reassign COVID-19 cases to DOH within one business day upon determining the patient is a resident of another local health jurisdiction or resides outside of Washington state
- Upon consultation with DOH, the local health jurisdiction may forward case reports or laboratory reports for data entry and processing
- Unless the health care provider or facility included the following data in the case report, include the following data components in COVID-19 investigation reports in addition to required reportable data components under WAC 246-101-513:

    - Patient's street address, including residence zip code and county
    - Patient's telephone number with area code
    - Patient's sex
    - Test ordered, performed, and resulted, using appropriate LOINC codes as defined by the Laboratory in Vitro Diagnostics (LIVD) Test Code Mapping for SARS-CoV-2 tests provided by the CDC
    - Test result (values) using appropriate SNOMED-CT codes as defined by the LIVD Test Code Mapping for SARS-CoV-2 tests provided by the CDC
    - Test result date (date format)
    - Device identifier
    - Accession number or specimen ID
    - Date of specimen collection (date format)
    - Specimen source, using appropriate SNOMED-CT, SPM4 codes, or equivalently detailed alternative codes
    - Ordering organization or health care provider's name
    - Ordering organization or health care provider's National Provider Identifier (as applicable) and affiliated organization (specific facility)
    - Ordering organization or health care provider's telephone number
    - Ordering organization or health care provider's address including zip code
    - Performing laboratory or facility name and CLIA number
    - Performing laboratory or facility address including zip code
    - Performing laboratory or facility phone number
    - Reporting entity name and CLIA number (or appropriate ID)
    - Reporting entity address including zip code

- Reporting entity phone number
- Patient's notifiable condition
- Date specimen received by reporting laboratory
- Type of specimen tested
- Date local health department was notified
- Condition symptom onset date (preferred), or alternatively, diagnosis date
- Source or suspected source

Department of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture should continue to submit animal case reports as required under WAC 246-101-805, and WAC 246-101-810 with the following adjustments:

- Submit individual animal case reports for COVID-19 to DOH within 24 hours of being notified of an animal case
- Submit COVID-19 animal case reports via secure electronic data transmission using a file format or template specified by DOH

We highly value and are grateful for the contributions that you are making to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and appreciate your assistance in continuing to submit these data. This letter will be in effect until May 1, 2026, unless rescinded at an earlier date by the state health officer.

Best,

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Secretary of Health

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