PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
2022– PAHAN –633 – 04-04-ADV
Updated Reporting Requirements for COVID-19 Test Results

DATE:	April 4, 2022
TO:	Health Alert Network
FROM:	Keara Klinepeter, Acting Secretary of Health
SUBJECT:	**Updated Reporting Requirements for COVID-19 Test Results**
DISTRIBUTION:	Statewide
LOCATION:	Statewide
STREET ADDRESS:	Statewide
COUNTY:	Statewide
MUNICIPALITY:	Statewide
ZIP CODE:	Statewide

This transmission is a "Health Advisory": provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
HOSPITALS: PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, NURSING AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL; **EMS COUNCILS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; FQHCs: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE **LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS**: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP; **LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES:** PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, INFECTION CONTROL, AND NURSING STAFF IN YOUR FACILITY

Summary:

- The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have recently released updated guidance for reporting results of SARS-CoV-2 test results.
- The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) is making changes to required reporting based on this guidance.
- All polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test results should continue to be reported to Pennsylvania's National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (PA-NEDSS).
- For antigen tests and tests performed at point-of-care (POC), only POSITIVE test results should be reported.
- Do not report any COVID-19 antibody test results, whether positive, negative, or inconclusive.
- These changes should help reduce the reporting burden on providers and laboratories.
- These changes should be instituted as soon after 4/4/2022 as possible.
- If you have any questions, please call DOH at 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258) or your local health department.

DOH is making changes to the reporting requirements for COVID-19 test results to PA-NEDSS. This information updates HAN 534. Required reporting of results depends on the type of test being performed, please refer to the table below. These changes are based upon updated guidance recently released by HHS and CDC, COVID-19 Pandemic Response, Laboratory Data Reporting: CARES Act Section 18115 (cdc.gov), effective April 4.

New Reporting Requirements for SARS-CoV-2 Test Results

Type of SARS-CoV-2 test	Test result		
	Positive	**Negative**	**Inconclusive**
Antibody (e.g., AB, IgM, IgG, IgA)	**Do not report**	**Do not report**	**Do not report**
Antigen test (e.g., rapid test, lateral flow test, etc.) -or- Any point-of-care test, i.e., any COVID-19 diagnostic test performed on-site at a CLIA-waived facility, such as a nursing home	Report	**Do not report**	**Do not report**
Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) test (e.g., RT-PCR, TMA, etc.)	Report	Report	Report

In addition, please note –

- There is NO CHANGE for reporting PCR results. All COVID-19 PCR results must continue to be reported to PA-NEDSS. This will allow percent positivity and other PCR-based testing metrics to continue to be produced.
- These new requirements apply to both Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) and online key entry into PA-NEDSS.
- Long-term care facilities (LTCFs) who must report aggregate positive and negative antigen/point-of-care test results to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) should continue to do so. However, LTCFs who are also reporting individual test result data to NHSN should follow the chart above and stop reporting individual negative results from antigen or other point-of-care tests.
- If a facility is mandated to report individual negative antigen results (such as reporting school testing results through the STRAC app, or complying with requirements from other agencies), the facility must continue to report them. DOH will contact these reporters directly.
- As before, reportable test results should be submitted to PA-NEDSS within 24 hours of completion of the test.
- These changes should be instituted as soon after 4/4/2022 as possible.

If you have any questions, please call DOH at 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258) or your local health department.

Categories of Health Alert Network messages:

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Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

This information is current as of April 4, 2022 but may be modified in the future. We will continue to post updated information regarding the most common questions about this subject.