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Health Advisory

To: Healthcare Providers

From: David Canton, DO, MPH, JD, Health Officer Interim (signed original on file)

Date: February 15, 2022

Re: COVID-19 Reporting Changes

The California State Public Health Officer recently updated the COVID-19 Health Care Provider (HCP) and laboratory reporting requirements as follows:

- California Code of Regulations, title 17, sections 2500(b) and 2500(j) are temporarily modified to eliminate the requirements for health care providers to report COVID-19 cases, except as follows:
 - Within **one working day of identification of hospitalization and/or death of a patient due to COVID-19**, health care providers shall report this information.
 - The reporting of hospitalizations and deaths by healthcare providers required is in addition to weekly reporting of hospitalized COVID-19 cases by hospitals as required under [AFL 21-25](#).
 - **Health care providers conducting point of care testing must still report test results consistent with the requirements for laboratories (see below for details).**
- California Code of Regulations, title 17, sections 2505(a)(3) and (e)(1) **are temporarily modified to allow for laboratories to report COVID-19 results within 24 hours from the time the laboratory notifies the health care provider or other person authorized to receive the report.**
 - All laboratories, testing locations operating as temporary overflow or remote locations for a laboratory, and other facilities or locations performing testing at point of care or with at-home specimens collected related to SARS-CoV-21 – shall report data for all testing completed, for each individual tested, within 24 hours of results being known or determined, on a daily basis to the appropriate state or local public health department based on the individuals residence. See [COVID-19 Pandemic Response, Laboratory Data Reporting: CARES Act Section 18115](#) for details.

Changes to COVID-19 reporting requirements are due to the large number of COVID-19 cases currently being identified. At this stage in the pandemic, with thousands of cases being reported daily, immediate reporting by HCP is no longer feasible due to volume and immediate reporting by laboratories within one hour is no longer needed. These changes will optimize efforts by focusing provider reporting on severe cases such as hospitalizations and deaths, reflecting the evolving priorities for COVID-19 surveillance. If the situation arises such that the California Department of Public Health and/or the local health officer requests COVID-19 information from an HCP, this information would still need to be made available pursuant to section 2500.

For further information or for assistance in reporting cases, call the Butte County Public Health Department at (530) 552-3929.

Resources

- California Department of Public Health; [State Public Health Officer Order of February 10th, 2022](#)
- California Department of Public Health: [AFL 21-25 web page](#)
- California ALL: [Tracking COVID-19 in California](#)
- [COVID-19 Pandemic Response, Laboratory Data Reporting: CARES Act Section 18115](#)

Categories of urgency levels:

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