# 2020 Health Advisory #37: All Point-of-Care COVID-19 Test Results Must be Reported Electronically

- **Facilities that perform point-of-care SARS-CoV-2 testing (including nucleic acid amplification [NAA], antigen, and antibody tests) are required to report all results (e.g., positive, negative, and indeterminate) via the New York State (NYS) Electronic Clinical Laboratory Reporting System (ECLRS).**
- **Providers must inquire regarding patients' school, employment, and local address information when performing COVID-19 tests and include such information in the ECLRS report or lab requisition form.**
- **NYS now requires providers licensed by the NYS Department of Health Physician Office Laboratory Evaluation Program to report influenza test results via ECLRS.**
- **Contact the NYC Health Department's ECLRS team (nyceclrs@health.nyc.gov) and the NYS ECLRS Help Desk (866-325-7743 or eclrs@health.ny.gov) for assistance.**
- **Antigen-based SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic tests have limited sensitivity. Negative antigen-based test results may require confirmation with a laboratory-based NAA test.**

September 18, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

This Health Advisory pertains to point-of-care (POC) SARS-CoV-2 tests performed at sites that hold a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) Certificate of Waiver where patient care is provided. It does not pertain to tests performed in the moderate or high complexity laboratory setting. POC tests for SARS-CoV-2 include nucleic acid amplification (NAA) tests, antigen tests, and serologic (antibody) tests.

Providers need to provide timely and complete reporting of COVID-19 test results, including POC test results, as they are a crucial component of our response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Results are used to identify confirmed cases of COVID-19, monitor the pandemic in New York City (NYC), and guide public health interventions, including contact tracing.

**Reporting COVID-19 Results and Data Elements Via the New York State (NYS) Electronic Clinical Laboratory Reporting System (ECLRS)**

Recently released NYS Executive Order No, 202. 61 requires all laboratories and facilities that perform POC testing, including urgent care centers, medical offices, hospitals, nursing homes, pharmacies, and clinics, to report all SARS-CoV-2 test results via ECLRS. All test results (e.g., positive, negative, indeterminate) must be reported within three hours of receipt in order to inform and enable prompt initiation of contact tracing. Failure to report COVID-19 test results for NYC residents via ECLRS is a

violation of the federal CARES Act, New York State laws and regulations, and the New York City Health Code, and is a punishable offense.

SARS-CoV-2 test result reports are the NYC Health Department's primary source of essential information on characteristics of persons with COVID-19, including age, sex, race, and ethnicity. An effective, equitable response to the COVID-19 public health emergency relies on accurate and complete information from these reports. Please obtain this information from your patients and include all requested information on report forms.

NYS Executive Order 202.61 also requires that, in performing any SARS-CoV-2 testing, providers must inquire: (i) whether the individual receiving the test attends, works, or volunteers in a school, and if so, where; (ii) for the individual's place of employment; and (ii) for the individual's local address, if such address differs from the individual's permanent address. Information obtained must be included in the ECLRS report or lab requisition form.

NYS forwards reports submitted to ECLRS to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to help providers meet the CMS requirement to report all SARS-CoV-2 test results.

We recognize that reporting via ECLRS is new for many providers and facilities. If your site does not currently report via ECLRS, contact the NYC Health Department's ECLRS team (**nyceclrs@health.nyc.gov**) and the NYS ECLRS Help Desk (**866-325-7743** or **eclrs@health.ny.gov**) for instructions on how to initiate reporting.

To ensure continuity of reporting, you may use the NYC Health Department's Reporting Central online portal until ECLRS reporting is established. Additional information on Reporting Central appears below. If you are unable to report via Reporting Central, fax reports to **347-396-8991** using the NYC Health Department's Universal Reporting Form.

Reporting Central and faxed reports are intended as temporary options. It is critical that all providers who perform POC testing for SARS-CoV-2 set up ECLRS accounts and report all POC test results via ECLRS to ensure that reports are received as quickly as possible and ease the burden on the public health system, which must rapidly intake tens of thousands of reports daily for COVID-19 alone. Additionally, reporting SARS-CoV-2 test results via ECLRS is required by New York State.

**Influenza Test Result Reporting via ECLRS**

NYS Executive Order No. 202.61 also mandates that every licensed professional authorized by the NYS Department of Health Physician Office Laboratory Evaluation Program that administers a test for influenza report such results via ECLRS within three hours of receipt of the results. Additional guidance is forthcoming from NYS.

**Caution Regarding Interpretation of Point-of-Care Antigen-Based COVID-19 Tests**

Current FDA-authorized antigen-based COVID-19 diagnostic tests are generally less sensitive than NAA-based tests. Therefore, a negative rapid antigen test result should be confirmed with a laboratory-based NAA test if the patient is symptomatic or had a known recent exposure to someone with confirmed COVID-19. See CDC's Antigen Test Guidelines for additional information on the use of antigen tests. See

FDA's list of In Vitro Diagnostics Emergency Use Authorizations for more information about the performance of specific authorized tests.

Thank you for your continued partnership in the city's COVID-19 response.

Sincerely,

Demetre C. Daskalakis, MD, MPH
Deputy Commissioner, Division of Disease Control

**NYC Health Department Reporting Central**

Providers or facilities that are currently unable to report via ELCRS may use Reporting Central until ECLRS reporting is established**.** To report a SARS-CoV-2 POC test result, go to the Reporting Central portal (https://nyc.gov/site/doh/providers/reporting-and-services/reporting-central.page) and choose disease "COVID-19 and other severe coronaviruses (including MERS and SARS)." Please be sure to **enter all requested information AND complete the last page of questions, including onset date, diagnosis date, type of coronavirus being reported, type of test performed, and test location (select "point of care test" from the drop-down).**

To register for Reporting Central, visit nyc.gov/nycmed. A Reporting Central user guide is available at: https://nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/hcp/reporting-central-new-user-guide.pdf.

**The NYC Health Department may change recommendations as the situation evolves.**