
PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

CHANGES IN COVID-19 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

FEBRUARY 10, 2022

The Riverside University Health System - Public Health (RUHS - PH) provides this guidance based on current information. Updated guidance will be issued as new information becomes available.

Situation

Over eight million COVID-19 cases have been identified in California, with over 500 thousand cases reported in Riverside County. These cases must be reported to Public Health by health care providers (HCP) and laboratories. Immediate reporting of cases through a manual process is no longer feasible. Steps to optimize reporting efforts by focusing HCP reporting on severe COVID-19 and aligning laboratory reporting with daily automated reporting are needed. Limiting HCP reporting to severe cases, such as hospitalizations and deaths, reflect evolving priorities for COVID-19 surveillance by CDPH. If the situation arises such that the California Department of Public Health and/or the Riverside County public health officer requests COVID-19 information from an HCP, this information must still be provided pursuant to section 2500.

Immediate reporting by laboratories within one hour is no longer needed. Based on the temporary modification of CCR title 17, sections 2505, laboratories are now allowed to report COVID-19 results within 24 hours from the time the laboratory notifies the HCP or other person authorized to receive the report.

Background

Both health care providers (HCP) and laboratories are required to report cases of Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) [1] pursuant to provisions of title 17, California Code of Regulations sections 2500 and 2505 (hereinafter, all references to sections are to title 17 of the California Code of Regulations).

HCP reporting is required under section 2500, which states that HCPs must report every confirmed or suspect case immediately by telephone. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 17, § 2500, subd. (b), (j).) Laboratory reporting is required under section 2505, which states that laboratories must report findings consistent with COVID-19 within one hour. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 17, § 2505, subd. (e)(1).) These are requirements have been modified per instructions below.

Actions Requested of Clinicians

- a. Within one working day of identification of hospitalization and/or death of a patient due to COVID-19 report the case to Riverside County Public Health.
- b. Report cases meeting the above criteria by confidential morbidity report (CMR) sent to 951-358-5446 or through CalREDIE for HCPs who are enrolled.
- c. The reporting of hospitalizations and deaths by healthcare providers required by subparagraph (a) is in addition to weekly reporting of hospitalized COVID-19 cases by hospitals as required under AFL 21-25.[3].
- d. HCP conducting point of care COVID-19 testing are considered to be laboratories, and therefore would still be required to report all COVID-19 test results, consistent with laboratory reporting requirements.

The State Public Health Officer Order is located at:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Order-of-the-State-Public-Health-Officer-Revision-of-Mandatory-Reporting-of-Covid-19-Results-by-Health-Care-Providers.aspx>

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