



Topic: Effective Immediately - Require Immediate Reporting of COVID-19 Test Results to the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)

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Date: June 24, 2020 (Corrected June 25, 2020)

To: All Medical Laboratories In-State and Out-of-State Processing Test Results for Nevada Residents

Recently observed surges in the incidence of COVID-19 cases in Nevada and several neighboring states require immediate response actions; prompt and active prevention; control and effective containment measures. Increased laboratory testing, rapid early detection; case isolation and contacts’ testing with proper quarantine are essential to immediately counteract and reverse these concerning trends especially before the start of the influenza season in the fall.

Prompt COVID-19 laboratory testing and rapid contact tracing can be very effective only when COVID-19 symptomatic and most importantly asymptomatic and presymptomatic cases are quickly and promptly identified and evaluated in a timely manner (i.e., less than 48 hours).

Currently observed lack of timely reporting of laboratory test results to the public health authority is greatly hindering the state efforts for tracing those who could have been exposed to COVID-19, and is needlessly delaying our contact investigations, resulting in preventable further spread of the virus within the community, more cases and more hospitalizations and deaths.

Effective immediately, all in-state and out-of-state laboratories who are processing and testing samples from Nevada residents are required under severe penalties to report all COVID-19 test results to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health within 24 hours from analysis through an established reporting method.

Clinicians must report all confirmed and suspected cases by fully completing the Nevada Confidential Morbidity Report Form and sending it to their local health authority / the Nevada Office of Public Health Investigation and Epidemiology. Form can be found below:


http://dph.nv.gov/Programs/OPHIE/Public_Health_Informatics_and_Epidemiology_-_Home/

Please note all results must be reported immediately. Immediate actions will be taken to identify and discipline laboratories which violate this directive.

Reporting of COVID-19 is required under NRS 441A.120 and NAC 441A.108, subsection 2, c. NAC 441A.085 “Extraordinary occurrence of illness” defined. ([NRS 441A.120](#)).

Laboratories must also immediately notify the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of any issues with capacity, supplies, machines, or staffing to quickly identify and address any resource needs that may hinder timely test results.

For More Information: Please contact DPBH M-F 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at (775)-684-5911. The after-hours line can be contacted at (775)-400-0333.

Signed: 
Ihsan Azzam, PhD, MD, Chief Medical Officer

Date: 6/24/2020

Signed: 
Lisa Sherych, Administrator

Date: 6/24/2020