



**TO:** West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals and Other Healthcare Facilities

**FROM:** Ayne Amjad, MD, MPH, Commissioner and State Health Officer  
Bureau for Public Health  
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources

**DATE:** August 20, 2020

**LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS:** Please distribute to community health providers, hospital-based physicians, infection control preventionists, laboratory directors, and other applicable partners.

**OTHER RECIPIENTS:** Please distribute to association members, staff, etc.

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), Bureau for Public Health (BPH) continues to respond to coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in West Virginia. The purpose of this advisory is to update healthcare providers on new national requirements for COVID-19 laboratory test data elements. These added reporting requirements will help assure rapid public health response to COVID-19 across West Virginia communities. Comprehensive laboratory testing data, including complete demographic details and other information, is critical to initiate epidemiologic case investigations, assisting with contact tracing, and assessing availability and use of testing resources. In addition, the laboratory testing data, in conjunction with case reports, provide vital guidance for mitigation and control activities.

Healthcare providers play a role in the new reporting requirements under the [CARES Act](#) that will provide much needed data on the pandemic's impact on West Virginia communities. In the new [elements to be collected and reported](#) beyond demographic data, there is a set of unique questions that inquire whether a patient is a healthcare worker, has COVID-19 symptoms, is a resident of a congregate care setting, is pregnant or has been hospitalized.

**BPH is asking all healthcare providers to continue to:**

1. Report immediately all positive COVID-19 laboratory results to the local health department (LHD). Healthcare providers should **fax case reports** to the LHD of the patient's county of residence. Laboratories not currently reporting electronically must fax positive reports to the LHD of the patient's county of residence.
2. Report suspected cases of [Multi-inflammatory Syndrome in Children \(MIS-C\)](#) immediately to the LHD of the patient's county of residence.
3. Collaborate with laboratories to collect the required and new additional data elements. For assistance with electronic laboratory reporting, please contact Tim Clendenen at [Tim.G.Clendenen@wv.gov](mailto:Tim.G.Clendenen@wv.gov) or the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at (304) 558-5358 ext. 2.

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to local health departments and professional associations. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information as appropriate to the target audience.

**Categories of Health Alert messages:**

**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.

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