

Notice of Statewide COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2 Surveillance: Frequently Asked Questions for Disease Reporters

Background

The Commissioner of Health (“Commissioner”) issued a Notice of Statewide COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2 Surveillance on December 5, 2022, to align COVID-19 reporting requirements under the Communicable Disease Reporting Rule with how mandated reporters are currently reporting COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2 (cases, hospitalizations, test results, and deaths).

The full notice can be viewed at [Reporting of COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2 under the Minnesota Communicable Disease Rules, Chapter 4605.7080](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/reportable/rule/process) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/reportable/rule/process>).

Why is MDH issuing a Notice of Statewide Surveillance for COVID-19 at this time?

On March 3, 2020, at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commissioner issued a notice requiring reporting of COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2 under Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4605.7050. This part of the Communicable Disease Rule is meant to address reporting when a new disease threat is identified.

Since there is an ongoing need for COVID-19 reporting, the notice requiring reporting shifts the legal authority to Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4605.7080. This section of the Communicable Disease Rule allows MDH to formalize the reporting protocols that evolved during the pandemic. Longer-term, MDH plans to move forward with a formal rulemaking process to address COVID-19 reporting on a permanent basis.

Does the notice change COVID-19 reporting?

No. Disease reporters should continue to report as they have been since summer 2022, when COVID-19 reporting requirements were last updated for community settings such as long-term care, Pre-K-12 schools, and child care. Those updates included a shift from case-based reporting to facility-level reporting for community settings. Health care providers, clinics, hospitals, and medical laboratories should continue to report COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2 as they have been doing.

Who is covered by the notice?

This notice applies to all disease reporters. This includes health care providers, clinics, hospitals, and medical laboratories. It also includes these community settings: long-term care facilities, pre-K-12 schools and child care, institutes of higher education, correctional facilities, and shelters.

The notice provides more detail on who is covered.

Is there a particular section of the notice that applies to certain disease reporters?

There are sections that apply to certain disease reporters, but you may also want to review the complete notice. Some specific sections are:

- Health care providers, hospitals, clinics, medical laboratories (Section II.C)
- Long-term care facilities (Section II.D.)
- Pre-K-12 schools and child care programs (Section II.E.)
- Institutes of higher education (Section II.F.)
- Correctional facilities (Section II.G.)
- Shelters (Section II.H.)

Do we still need to report point of care (POC) test results conducted under a CLIA certificate or certificate of waiver?

Entities conducting POC testing under a CLIA certificate or a CLIA certificate of waiver must continue to meet reporting requirements under the federal CARES Act/HHS guidelines. Refer to Section II.B. of the notice for a discussion of federal requirements.

Who do I contact with questions?

For questions or more information, please email Health.R-Congregate@state.mn.us or contact Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention & Control (IDEPC), PO Box 64975, St. Paul, MN 55164-00975, 651-201-5414.

12/05/2022

To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5414.