

April 15, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

The Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) is providing this update regarding the COVID-19 outbreak. Visit our [webpage](#) for the most up to date information on case counts, information, and resources.

### **Reporting COVID-19 cases and deaths:**

The Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) urges hospitals, clinical laboratories, and health care professionals across Tennessee to ensure timely reporting of all COVID-19 cases to TDH. TDH requires reporting of designated conditions, including COVID-19, to the state health department. Reporting all cases of COVID-19 in a timely manner to public health drives actions to curb disease spread and informs critical policy decisions. Recently, point of care testing has increased with new testing platforms coming into the marketplace. As a reminder, all COVID-19 testing (positive and negative results) is required to be reported by providers immediately (within 24 hours).

In addition to reporting, it is critical to provide complete and timely patient demographic information when reporting cases of COVID-19 to TDH and when ordering COVID-19 testing from laboratories. Commercial/private laboratories also have reporting obligations to the state health department which includes the reporting of complete patient demographic information. To ensure timely public health action, patient demographic information (i.e., phone number, address, race/ethnicity, sex) at the time of test order must be complete.

Full guidance on reporting is available online [here](#).

**Cases:** Healthcare providers have 3 options for reporting laboratory confirmed cases:

- Fax the [PUI Form](#) and a copy of the positive laboratory report to 615-741-3857
- Call the TDH COVID-19 call center between 8am-4:30pm, 615-741-7247
- Submit an electronic Morbidity Report\*

*\*If you already report diseases or conditions to TDH via Morbidity Reports, you can continue to do this for COVID-19 positive labs. These are electronically submitted to NBS through <https://hssi.tn.gov/auth/login>.*

**Deaths:** There are 2 options for reporting suspected or confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths:

- Call your county medical examiner
- Fax the [PUI Form](#) and a copy of the positive laboratory report to 615-741-3857. • Be sure to mark the field indicating death
- An updated form can be submitted indicating death if you have previously reported the individual as a case

### **Testing your patients:**

- [COVID-19 Assessment and Specimen Collection Sites](#) are available across the state. Public health-supported sites provide testing free of charge to all comers. Call ahead before arriving to confirm hours and availability at all locations.
- Additionally, sampling events are being planning in communities across Tennessee in the upcoming weeks.

## **Provider Training and Resources:**

- [Tennessee Department of Health Friday webinar series](#)
  - Hear live TDH physicians every Friday at noon. These webinars are intended for primary care providers and other medical partners, and consist of a presentation followed by Q&A period. Recordings to past webinars are available [here](#).
- [National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center \(NETEC\)](#)
  - [Care of Labor and Delivery Patients](#) - Thursday, April 16, 2020 | 3:00 PM CDT
  - [Healthcare Workers and Masks](#) - Friday, April 17, 2020 | 11:00 AM CDT
  - Information to register for upcoming and repository of past webinars [here](#). Past webinar topics include Telemedicine Innovations, Caring for Pediatric Patients, Innovative Engineering Controls, and Care for Caregivers.

Thank you for all that you do in keeping Tennesseans safe and healthy.  
Tennessee Department of Health