STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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TO: **Laboratories**

FROM: **Matthew L. Cartter, MD, MPH, State Epidemiologist**

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SUBJECT: **Changes to requirements for SARS-CoV-2 test reporting**

DATE: **March 28, 2022**

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act as outlined in the guidance released by the Department Health and Human Services (HHS) on June 4, 2020, required every CLIA certified COVID-19 testing site to report every diagnostic and screening test result (both positive and negative results) performed to detect SARS-CoV-2 or to diagnose a possible case of COVID-19 (e.g., molecular, antigen, antibody) to the appropriate state or local public health department, based on the individual's residence. Under this guidance, laboratories testing under a CLIA certificate were to report all results for any testing for COVID-19 – antigen, PCR/NAAT, or antibody tests. In Connecticut, these reports are sent to the Department of Public Health (DPH).

On March 8, 2022, HHS released updated guidance https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/reporting-lab-data.html#who-must-report (see Table 1 in the attachment) that makes optional the reporting of SARS-CoV-2 negative test results for antigen tests performed by CLIA certified laboratories and removes the requirement for any reporting of COVID-19 antibody results. DPH is adopting this change in reporting effective **April 4, 2022**.

The changes are summarized below:

Table 1. Changes to Reporting Requirements by Type of Test and Test Location

Type of Test	Positive Results	Negative & Inconclusive Results	Location
NAAT-testing conducted in a facility CLIA certified to perform moderate- or high-complexity tests	**Required**	**Required**	For example, hospital, commercial, public health and other labs
Other testing for SARS-CoV-2 antigen or rapid PCR testing	Required	**No longer required to report***	• Testing conducted in a setting operating under a CLIA certificate of waiver. • **Laboratories performing non-NAAT tests**
Antibody testing	**No longer required to report**	**No longer required to report**	Tests used to determine previous infection with SARS-CoV-2 in any setting

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*It should be noted that although point of care testing locations testing under a CLIA certificate of waiver do not have to report negative rapid PCR test results such as those determined using the Abbott ID NOW, we encourage hospital EDs to include those rapid PCR negative results in reports if possible.

Reports still need to include all of the required data fields as defined by DPH. The Infectious Disease Informatics Program staff will be in touch with you about these reporting changes. For further questions or information please email DPH.InformaticsLab@ct.gov.

Laboratories should note that DPH still has an Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) project that was paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Informatics Program will be contacting labs in the near future to continue to onboard for ELR for all reportable laboratory results.