

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Acting Commissioner



Ned Lamont  
Governor  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Lt. Governor

### CT DPH Recommendations to Health Care Providers and Laboratories Updated Guidance on Provider Reporting of COVID-19 Cases (including Vaccine Breakthrough) and Specimen Submission for Variant Testing April 29, 2021

#### Key Points

- Providers should report vaccine breakthrough cases using the online provider report portal
- Variant testing on vaccine breakthrough cases is provided at the CT State Public Health Laboratory (CT SPHL)

#### Healthcare Providers - Recommendations on Reporting

The **DPH COVID-19 Healthcare Provider Report Portal** has been updated and can be accessed by any web browser at the following link: <https://dphsubmissions.ct.gov/Covid/InitiateCovidReport>. The following types of reports can be submitted through the portal.

#### 1. **Any newly diagnosed case of COVID-19**

Healthcare providers should continue to use the portal to report newly recognized cases of COVID-19 based on positive RNA or antigen test results for SARS-CoV-2.

**Note:** Hospital staff should continue to report cases of COVID-19 (including vaccine breakthrough) directly through the Connecticut Electronic Disease Surveillance System (CTEDSS) at <https://edss.dph.ct.gov/maven/login.do>.

#### 2. **COVID-19 vaccine breakthrough cases**

The online portal replaces the paper "*COVID-19 Vaccine Breakthrough Case Report Form*" previously distributed. Providers should only use this portal to report vaccine breakthrough cases; the PDF form will no longer be accepted. All vaccine breakthrough cases meeting the below case definition should be reported. If variant testing has not been conducted, providers should contact the testing laboratory and request that residual specimens from the positive test (respiratory specimen or RNA extract) be forwarded to the CT SPHL. This request should be made as soon as possible before specimens are discarded.



Phone: (860) 509-7994 • Fax: (860) 629-6962  
Telecommunications Relay Service 7-1-1  
410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 340308  
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308  
[www.ct.gov/dph](http://www.ct.gov/dph)

*Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer*



**Case definition:** A Connecticut resident who has SARS-CoV-2 RNA or antigen detection in a respiratory specimen collected **≥14 days after completing the primary series** (i.e. final dose) of an FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine.

3. **SARS-CoV-2 test results for patients tested onsite** (i.e. point of care testing) at a medical provider office using a rapid test. Providers should make every effort to report using an electronic file, but if CT DPH determines your volume is low enough, you may use the portal. Please contact [DPH.InformaticsLab@ct.gov](mailto:DPH.InformaticsLab@ct.gov) to discuss.

### **Laboratories - Recommendations on Specimen Submission for Vaccine Breakthrough Cases**

1. Forward specimens from confirmed **vaccine breakthrough** cases only (see case definition above) to the CT DPH State Laboratory (CT SPHL) for further SARS-CoV-2 variant analysis.
  - a. Submit >800uL of original clinical specimen (preferred if available).
  - b. Store specimen at 2-8°C up to 3 days from date of collection. Transport to the CT SPHL with a frozen ice pack coolant. If there is a delay in shipment expected, store specimens at -70°C or lower until delivered to the CT SPHL on dry ice.
  - c. Submit each specimen with a completed CT COVID-19 Clinical Test Requisition. Please indicate that specimen is for “Vaccine Breakthrough”. The requisition form can be found here: [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/laboratory/labhome/lab-forms/2019\\_nCoV\\_req\\_FILL.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/laboratory/labhome/lab-forms/2019_nCoV_req_FILL.pdf)
  - d. Please note that results of variant testing will not be reported to the ordering healthcare provider at this time. Further information on the uses of whole genome sequencing can be found here: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DPH/HAI/COVID19-WGS.pdf>
2. If variant testing and/or sequencing will be conducted at your laboratory, vaccine breakthrough specimens do not need to be forwarded to the CT SPHL. Results of your laboratory’s variant testing and/or sequencing should be shared with the CT DPH. These results are critical to state and national efforts in monitoring the spread of variants and its impact on vaccine effectiveness. Contact [DPH.InformaticsLab@ct.gov](mailto:DPH.InformaticsLab@ct.gov) on ways to report these findings.

If you have questions about reporting COVID-19 vaccine breakthrough cases, please contact the Epidemiology and Emerging Infections Program at [DPH.EEIP@ct.gov](mailto:DPH.EEIP@ct.gov) or 860-509-7994. If you have questions about specimen submission, please contact the CT SPHL by emailing [Randy.Downing@ct.gov](mailto:Randy.Downing@ct.gov) or calling 860-920-6640. We appreciate your assistance in continuing to report cases of COVID-19 and identifying vaccine breakthrough cases.