



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health
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RICHMOND, VA 23218

Colin M. Greene, MD, MPH
Acting State Health Commissioner

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April 4, 2022

Dear Colleague:

Federal law, 116-136, § 18115(a), the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, provides reporting requirements related to SARS-CoV-2 and grants authority to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop guidance that outlines the requirements for data submission. The federal government has recently revised their guidance related to SARS-CoV-2 reporting requirements. These revisions replace a blanket requirement to report all SARS-CoV-2 test results, and reduce the burden on reporters. The updated guidance outlines revised reporting requirements by entity and type of testing, revised reporting requirements pertaining to state and local health departments, minimum data elements and other reporting details. Certain test types and results are no longer required to be reported to HHS. The full HHS guidance may be found [here](#). The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) supports and concurs with these revisions to federal guidance.

Code of Virginia § 32.1-12 authorizes the State Board of Health (the Board) to provide for reasonable variances and exemptions from its regulations. Further, pursuant to [§ 32.1-20](#), the State Health Commissioner is vested with all the authority of the Board when it is not in session. As the Board is not currently in session, I am exercising my authority and find that reasonable exemptions to the current emergency Regulations for Disease Reporting and Control related to SARS-CoV-2 reporting requirements in 12VAC5-90-80 are necessary to align with these new revised federal guidelines.

In response to the updated guidance from HHS, **I hereby exempt physicians, laboratories, and directors of medical facilities from reporting negative or inconclusive SARS-CoV-2 antigen test results and all SARS-CoV-2 antibody testing results.** Laboratories include all entities that hold Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments Certificates of Waiver such as screening testing at schools, correctional facilities, employee testing programs, long-term care facilities, and point-of-care testing performed in pharmacies, medical provider offices, and drive-through testing sites.

The following results shall continue to be reported:

- All (positive, negative, and inconclusive) Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAAT) through whatever mechanism your entity is currently using, i.e., electronic lab reporting (ELR), flat file, or Point of Care (POC) portal.
- All POSITIVE antigen tests through whatever mechanism your entity is currently using (ELR, flat file, or POC portal).

A summary table for Virginia providers is attached.

[Ask on order entry \(AOE\) questions](#) are no longer required by HHS; however, VDH requests that laboratories, if able to do so accurately, continue to send AOE information. Please note, if you, your laboratory, or medical care facility continues to send optional results, VDH will receive but not process them in our surveillance system. Antibody and antigen positivity rates will be removed from public dashboards (due to the lack of antibody tests and negative antigen tests going forward).

VDH thanks you for your continued commitment and diligence in SARS-CoV-2 surveillance efforts in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colin M. Greene". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "C" and "G".

Colin M. Greene, MD, MPH
Acting State Health Commissioner

Virginia COVID Lab Result Reporting Guidance*

Type of Testing	Entity	Positive Results	Negative & Inconclusive Results
NAAT testing(e.g., PCR)	HL7 and FlatFile COVID-19 Reporters, COVID POC reporters	Required	Required
Antigen Testing	HL7 and FlatFile COVID-19 Reporters, COVID POC reporters	Required	Optional**
Antibody Testing	All reporters	Optional**	Optional**
Self-Administered Tests (regardless of method)	All reporters	Not Required**	Not Required**

*This table serves as Virginia's declaration on SARS-CoV-2 reporting requirements per HHS latest regulation changes, effective 4/4/2022.

**If received, lab results will not be processed into our surveillance system.

NAAT: Nucleic Acid Amplification Test

PCR: Polymerase Chain Reaction

POC: Point of Care

The full HHS guidance, including a summary table on page 4 can be found [here](#).