Onboarding Process for Electronic Case Reporting (eCR) in Virginia

In 2022, electronic case reporting (eCR) became a required measure for Promoting Interoperability (PI). Eligible providers (EPs) and eligible hospitals (EHs) are able to register their intent to onboard for eCR through the Meaningful Use (MU) Registration System (Note: eCR was available for providers to register intent starting Jan 2017). The following are steps for eCR reporting to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH).

Key Considerations for eCR participation:

- Check with all relevant stakeholders regarding how your facility or system currently identifies when a diagnosed condition qualifies as being reportable to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and how your facility reports this morbidity to VDH**.**
- Assess how eCR would replace and automate the process of identification and reporting of morbidity in terms of current clinical workflow and your electronic health records (EHR) system.
- During the onboarding process, standard reporting via Epi-1 or the online morbidity reporting portal should continue until Production status is reached for eCR.
- Onboarding for eCR is a joint effort between the CDC, APHL, and VDH. VDH requires eICR data submitters to use the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) Information Messaging System (AIMS) and the Reportable Condition Knowledge Management System (RCKMS) to ensure appropriate reporting. The state of Virginia uses the HL7 electronic initial case report (eICR) standards R1.1 and is working towards R3 for electronic case reporting (eCR). Virginia uses these standards to support the new CMS Promoting Interoperability regulations for eCR. Consequently, VDH will only receive eICRs in accordance with these standards.

1 **Registration:** Eligible Hospital (EH) or Eligible Professional (EP) registers intent to submit electronic case report data for PI (previously known as MU).

- Register using the VDH MU Registration System to document your intent to work with VDH on electronic case reporting (eCR).
- Email DIISMessaging@vdh.virginia.gov to learn more about getting started with eCR.
- The VDH eCR team will partner with the CDC eCR team and share your contact information to initiate eCR onboarding efforts collectively.
- In some instances, EHs and EPs may have an exploratory call with VDH and CDC eCR Teams to discuss eCR before they register.
- Partner with your EHR vendor to discuss options for implementing eCR.
- VDH will provide an acknowledgement of successful registration.
- Your MU status will be *"Registered."*

2 Establish Connection: EH/EPs sets up transport option with AIMS.

- Work with your EHR vendor to implement a connection to the APHL Integrated Messaging Service (AIMS) hub.
- If you have any questions, please mail ecr@cdc.gov.

3 Testing and Validation phase: EH/EPs submits electronic case report messages to public health for validation.

Once you have established connection, you will enter a 'testing and validation' status during which your eCR data will undergo basic testing and validation by AIMS and further testing and validation by VDH.

- eCR data will be tested and validated by AIMS.
- When the eCRs meet AIMS data quality standards, a go-live date with AIMS will be selected. Please note: Going live with AIMS does not mean going live with VDH.
- In partnership with AIMS, your facility will send live electronic initial case reports (eICRs) to VDH which will be routed to the Test environment of our surveillance systems.
- This begins a period of parallel production with eCRs going into Test and continued clinical reporting. Until explicitly notified by VDH, continue reporting through your current reporting method while eICRs are being reviewed in VDH's Test environment for data quality.
- Refine data elements/format based on VDH feedback.

4 Production: EH/EPs ongoing submission of electronic case report data and participates in periodic quality assurance activities.

Once VDH determines the eICRs meet our data quality standards, your facility will be notified via email(s) from VDH that your eICRs have been approved and will be routed to VDH's Production environment. This includes, but not limited, to the following information:

- You will be notified of the go-live date when your eICRs for approved conditions will be routed to VDH's Production environment. Parallel reporting will continue for eCRs with conditions that have not been approved for our Production environment.
- Your MU status will be updated from *"Testing and Validation"* to *"In Production."*
- You will be notified that reporting via Epi-1 or the online morbidity reporting portal may be discontinued since Production status has been achieved. This may be done on a condition by condition basis. For example, COVID and monkeypox eCRs may be live in our Prod surveillance system, but non COVID eCRs may need additional validation in our Test surveillance system.