COVID-19 Laboratory Test Reporting Requirements for Clinicians

Reporting of COVID-19 laboratory test results to the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) is mandated by state[1] and federal law[2]. Reporting requirements for clinicians differ depending on whether the clinician is ordering a test from a laboratory or performing point of care testing in-house.

Requirements for Clinicians Ordering Tests from a Laboratory

COVID-19 laboratory test results must be reported to UDOH by the laboratory performing the test. However, clinicians must provide the performing laboratory with complete patient demographic information. This requirement applies to clinicians ordering a test for any condition identified in the Utah Communicable Disease Rule[1]. Data elements clinicians must provide to the performing laboratory include the patient's:

- full name,
- date of birth,
- gender,
- race and ethnicity,
- address, and
- telephone number.

Requirements for Clinicians Performing Point of Care Testing

Facilities that perform COVID-19 testing, including clinicians offering point of care testing, are responsible for reporting test results performed by their facility and must meet the following requirements:

- All test results (positive, negative, equivocal, indeterminate) for all test types (PCR, antigen, serology) are reportable.
- Test results must be reported within 24 hours of test finalization.
- Test results must be reported to UDOH for all persons who live in Utah or whose specimen was collected by a Utah facility.
- Test results must be reported electronically (additional information below).
- Required data elements must be reported with test results (additional information below).

[1] Utah Admin. Code R386-702, the Communicable Disease Rule
[2] Public Law 116-136, § 18115(a), the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

How to Report

COVID-19 laboratory test results must be reported electronically. The preferred method for laboratory reporting is direct HL7 messaging to UDOH via sFTP. Because many facilities do not have the capacity to generate an HL7 message, UDOH has developed a COVID-19 laboratory reporting portal, where test results can be entered by direct data entry or a direct CSV upload. To initiate reporting to the Utah Department of Health, email edx@utah.gov.

Required Data Elements

A number of data elements are required when reporting to public health. These data elements generally fall into three categories: patient information, diagnostic/ordering provider and facility information, and laboratory information. All required data elements are available through the COVID-19 laboratory reporting portal. For additional information on required date elements, email edx@utah.gov.

For additional information, contact the DCP Informatics Program at edx@utah.gov or visit the "Information for Laboratories and Testing Facilities" section of https://coronavirus.utah.gov/recommendations-for-providers/.

[1] Utah Admin. Code R386-702, the Communicable Disease Rule
[2] Public Law 116-136, § 18115(a), the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act