

## Methods for Reporting COVID-19 Laboratory Results to Public Health

Reporting of COVID-19 laboratory test results to the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) is mandated by state and federal law. COVID-19 laboratory results can be submitted to UDOH via one of the four avenues described below. Emails and faxes are not an acceptable method of reporting.

### **HL7 direct to UDOH via SFTP**

HL7 messaging is an international standard for laboratory-based reporting to public health. HL7 is the preferred, and legally mandated, method for electronic reporting to UDOH. All commercial and clinical laboratories should have the capability to generate and transmit an HL7 message. Laboratories that cannot generate a compliant HL7 message should assess what enhancements are needed to their laboratory information management systems to successfully comply with this mandate.

Reporting of laboratory results using the standard HL7 2.3.1 or 2.5.1 specification fulfills the state mandate for reporting. In order to comply with HHS reporting requirements, facilities should reference the following technical specifications and resources:

<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-implementation.pdf>

<https://confluence.hl7.org/display/OO/Proposed+HHS+ELR+Submission+Guidance+using+HL7+v2+Messages>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/reporting-lab-data.html>

### **Association of Public Health Laboratories' AIMS platform**

The AIMS platform is an option for high volume or regional laboratories or data aggregators that need to report test results to multiple public health jurisdictions. Facilities can send data to the AIMS platform using HL7 messaging or a national CSV flat file, and AIMS will route the laboratory results to the appropriate public health jurisdiction.

### **Direct CSV upload into UDOH's COVID-19 reporting portal**

UDOH has developed a COVID-19 laboratory reporting portal for facilities that do not have the capacity to generate an HL7 message. Facilities can download a CSV template or generate a compliant CSV file directly from their information systems. The facility can then upload those test results through the portal for UDOH to receive and process electronically. The COVID-19 portal allows facilities to report all data elements required by both state and federal laws.

### **Direct data entry into UDOH's COVID-19 reporting portal**

The UDOH COVID-19 portal also allows for direct data entry of individual laboratory results. This option is most feasible for facilities that do not perform a significant amount of testing. The COVID-19 portal allows facilities to report all data elements required by both state and federal laws.

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