

COVID-19 Laboratory Reporting to State and Federal Health Entities

Reporting of COVID-19 laboratory test results to the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) is mandated by state and federal law.

Utah State Reporting

Laboratory reporting of COVID-19 test results to the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) is mandated through Utah Admin. Code R386-702, the Communicable Disease Rule. In addition to COVID-19, Utah law requires laboratories to report over 80 other conditions. R386-702 specifies the manner, timing, and frequency of laboratory reporting for all conditions to public health, in addition to what data elements must be reported with the laboratory result. All laboratories should have well-defined processes for reporting complete, timely, and accurate laboratory results to UDOH. Laboratory reporting of COVID-19 test results should be incorporated into these existing methods for public health communicable disease reporting. Additional information on R386-702 is available at: <http://health.utah.gov/epi/reporting/>.

Federal (HHS) Reporting

Public Law 116-136, § 18115(a), the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, requires “every laboratory that performs or analyzes a test that is intended to detect SARSCoV-2 or to diagnose a possible case of COVID-19” to report the results to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). On June 4, 2020, Health and Human Services (HHS) sent out a letter titled COVID-19 Pandemic Response, Laboratory Data Reporting: CARES Act Section 18115 (<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/covid-19-laboratory-data-reporting-guidance.pdf>) to clarify reporting expectations.

The HHS letter does not require laboratories to create an additional reporting process to send data directly to HHS. All laboratory results should be reported through standard electronic reporting methods to UDOH, who will forward laboratory results to HHS. The letter identifies additional required and optional data elements for laboratories to report with a test result. Many have not been included in previous UDOH reporting mandates.

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/>.