



COVID-19 Health Update – August 17, 2020

Replaces Health June 17, 2020 Health Advisory

Updated COVID-19 Healthcare Provider Reporting Requirements for Alameda County

Updates are Highlighted

Situation

Positive real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) tests and antigen¹ tests for current SARS-CoV-2 infection— not antibody— must be reported to the Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD).

Actions Requested of Clinicians and Laboratories

To assist providers in reporting positive cases to ACPHD, we have streamlined our reporting pathways:

- Laboratories must report positive and negative results within 8 hours via Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR), or by fax at (510) 273-3944.
 - All laboratory test requisitions and reports must now contain patient race and ethnicity. See [Title 17 Revisions - Laboratory Letter](#) for more information.
- Laboratories and health care providers **do not need to call** Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) to report positive cases. **Instead, healthcare providers should do the following:**
 - For clinical inquiries related to interpretation of laboratory results or evaluation and management of patients with suspected COVID-19, call ACPHD at (510) 267- 3250, Mon-Fri 8:30 am to 5 pm. After hours and on weekends, call Alameda County Fire Dispatch at (925) 422-7595 and ask to speak to the Public Health Duty Officer on call.
- Healthcare providers must complete a [COVID-19-specific Confidential Morbidity Report \(CMR\)](#) for laboratory-confirmed cases and fax to (510) 273-3944, or send by secure email to COVIDreport@acgov.org within 24 hours.
 - Please make sure to report as accurately and completely as possible, including patient occupation and race/ ethnicity. **Providers must include the address and phone number for each reported case to support timely investigation.**
 - Please provide a laboratory report of the positive result when available.
 - If the report is a positive antigen test, the laboratory report **or** CMR must indicate the testing platform (e.g. BD Veritor System, Sofia SARS Antigen FIA).
 - Reports must include information on whether the case is a:
 - Healthcare worker
 - First responder (e.g., police officer, firefighter, or EMS personnel)
 - Resident of a long-term care facility or other congregate setting (e.g., jail, homeless shelter, group home, board, and care)
 - Person who is unhoused or experiencing homelessness
 - CDPH has expanded reporting requirements to include race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity. See [Title 17 Revisions - Provider Letter](#) for more information.
 - Include relevant exposure information in the Additional Remarks section of the [CMR](#), such as whether the patient has recently attended a large gathering (e.g., protest) or is linked to a known cluster.

¹ Positive antigen tests using an FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) are reportable. As of August 14, 2020, two antigen tests have received FDA EUA status. See FDA's [In Vitro Diagnostics EUA- Individual EUAs for Antigen Diagnostic Tests for SARS-CoV-2](#) for more information.



Alameda County Health Care Services Agency
Public Health Department
www.acphd.org

Colleen Chawla, Director
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Public Health Department: Main Line (510) 267-8000

COVID-19 Information: (510) 268-2101

For more information on blanket isolation orders that apply to all persons diagnosed with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and blanket quarantine orders that apply to close contacts of cases, please see the [Health Advisory from April 3, 2020](#). The orders and instructions are available in multiple languages on our [website](#).

Local Health Department Contact Information

- Alameda County Acute Communicable Disease Control:
 - Weekdays 8:30AM – 5PM Phone: (510) 267–3250
 - After-Hours Phone: (925) 422–7595 and ask for the public health duty officer on call
 - For non-immediate concerns, email nCoV@acgov.org
- Berkeley Public Health Division:
 - Weekdays 8AM – 5PM Phone: (510) 981–5292
 - After-Hours Phone: (510) 981–5911 and ask for the Health Officer on call
- [Contact Information for all other Local Health Jurisdictions](#) is available online from CDPH