COVID-19 Reporting Requirements

Summary
On March 8, 2022, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) updated its COVID-19 Laboratory Data Reporting Guidance. Based on this guidance, DHEC has updated the South Carolina reporting requirements. These requirements go into effect on April 1, 2022.

This DHEC Health Update provides reminders and updated guidance on reporting of COVID-19 laboratory results and COVID-19-associated conditions for South Carolina residents. It replaces previous reporting requirements and reflects more tailored reporting requirements that are specific to entity and test type.

Updated Reporting Guidance
In accordance with SC laws and regulations, DHEC requires reporting of COVID-19 cases and laboratory test results related to the detection or characterization of SARS-CoV-2 as follows:

- **Positive, negative, and inconclusive results for SARS-CoV-2 Nucleic Acid Amplification (NAAT) testing:** Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)-certified laboratories that are certified to perform moderate- or high-complexity testing must report all NAAT (e.g., RT-PCR) test results (i.e., positive, negative, inconclusive) within 24 hours. This includes, but is not limited to, NAAT testing performed for SARS-CoV-2 by clinical laboratories, including public health, commercial, healthcare system, and academic laboratories.

- **Whole genome sequencing (WGS):** All patient-specific results and analyses of WGS must be reported within 24 hours, regardless of CLIA certification status of the laboratory. CDC has provided guidance for reporting these results (updated March 21, 2022). As a reminder, laboratories must meet all applicable CLIA-certifications if they intend to report these results directly to providers or patients when the result is requested to diagnose, prevent, treat, or assess health status of an individual.

- **All other SARS-CoV-2 testing (except antibody and self-administered testing):** Entities conducting all other SARS-COV-2 testing (e.g., testing conducted in a setting operating under a CLIA certificate of waiver, non-NAAT testing conducted in a facility certified under CLIA to perform moderate- or high-complexity tests) except antibody and self-administered testing, must report all positive test results. Entities should not report negative results of those tests, whether individual test results or in aggregate. This includes rapid testing conducted in many settings (e.g., screening...
testing at schools, correctional facilities, employee testing programs, long-term care facilities, and point-of-care testing performed in pharmacies, medical provider offices, and drive-through testing sites.)

- **SARS-CoV-2 antibody testing**: Results from antibody tests, whether positive, negative, or inconclusive), are no longer reportable by any facility.

- **COVID-19 vaccine breakthrough cases**: Patients meeting the vaccine breakthrough case definition are no longer reportable by any healthcare provider.

### Reporting Requirements of COVID-19 Test Results by Entity and Test Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Type and Entity</th>
<th>Is Reporting Required Under this Guidance?</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Positive Results</td>
<td>Negative &amp; Inconclusive Results</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| NAAT-testing conducted in a facility certified under CLIA to perform moderate- or high-complexity tests | Required | Required | • Laboratory-based Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) testing, including RT-PCR, TMA, LAMP, and SDA tests  
• See [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/naats.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/naats.html) for more information |
| Whole genome sequencing (WGS) conducted in both non CLIA and CLIA-certified facilities | Required | Required | Test performed to determine what SARS-CoV-2 variant (genetic lineage) is present in a positive specimen |
| All other testing | Required | Do not report | • Testing conducted in a setting operating under a CLIA certificate of waiver such as rapid tests used in many settings (e.g., screening testing at schools, correctional facilities, employee testing programs, long-term care facilities, and point-of-care testing performed in pharmacies, medical provider offices, and drive-through and pop-up testing sites)  
• Non-NAAT (e.g., high throughput antigen) testing conducted in a facility certified under CLIA to perform moderate or high-complexity tests |
| Antibody Testing | Do not report | Do not report | Tests used to determine previous infection with SARS-CoV-2 in any setting |

### Reminders

- All COVID-19 associated deaths and cases of multi-system inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) must be reported within 24 hours of determination to the [regional health department](https://example.com) responsible for the county in which they occur.
• Over-the-counter (OTC) at home tests with no provider or laboratory oversight should not be reported (see HAN from May 24, 2021 for details). At home tests ordered by providers must have their results reported by the provider.

How to Report
Deaths related to COVID-19 and MIS-C cases are urgently reportable by phone to the regional health department. Positive test results must be reported by phone within 24 hours to the regional DHEC office unless the provider or facility has the capability to submit all reportable test results to DHEC using an approved electronic reporting option, including Electronic Lab Reporting (ELR), DHEC's secure web-based reporting portal (SCI ONx), Comma-Separated Value (CSV) file transmitted via secure FTP site. Facilities that are not already submitting results via ELR or SCI ONx should contact MUHEL PDESK@dhec.sc.gov to inquire about ELR submission, or SCI ONHELP@dhec.sc.gov to inquire about SCI ONx and other electronic reporting options.

Additional information regarding disease reporting can be found on DHEC's List of Reportable Conditions.

Resources for Additional Information
SC DHEC. List of reportable conditions. Available at https://scdhec.gov/health-professionals/south-carolina-list-reportable-conditions


SC DHEC. South Carolina Health Alert Network (SC HAN). Available at https://scdhec.gov/health-professionals/south-carolina-health-alert-network-han


DHEC contact information for reportable diseases and reporting requirements
Reporting of certain SARS-CoV-2 laboratory and whole genome sequencing results, COVID-19 associated deaths, and cases of MIS-C is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2022 List of Reportable Conditions available at https://www.scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/Library/CR-009025.pdf
Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

### Regional Public Health Offices – 2022

Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Lowcountry | 4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600
N. Charleston, SC 29405
Fax: (843) 953-0051 | (843) 441-1091 | (843) 441-1091 |
| Midlands | 2000 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29204
Fax: (803) 576-2993 | (803) 801-1046 | (803) 801-1046 |
| Pee Dee | 1931 Industrial Park Road
Conway, SC 29526
Fax: (843) 915-6506 | (843) 915-8886 | (843) 409-0695 |
| Upstate | 200 University Ridge
Greenville, SC 29602
Fax: (864) 282-4373 | (864) 372-3133 | (864) 423-6648 |

**CALL TO:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Counties</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lowcountry</td>
<td>Allendale, Bamberg, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper, Orangeburg</td>
<td>(843) 441-1091</td>
<td>(843) 441-1091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midlands</td>
<td>Aiken, Barnwell, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lexington, Newberry, Richland, Saluda, York</td>
<td>(888) 801-1046</td>
<td>(888) 801-1046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pee Dee</td>
<td>Clarendon, Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Sumter, Williamsburg</td>
<td>(843) 915-8886</td>
<td>(843) 409-0695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upstate</td>
<td>Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, Union</td>
<td>(864) 372-3133</td>
<td>(864) 423-6648</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For information on reportable conditions, see [https://www.scdhec.gov/ReportableConditions](https://www.scdhec.gov/ReportableConditions)

### Categories of Health Alert messages:

**Health Alert**
Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory**
Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update**
Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Info Service**
Provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.