

HEALTH ALERT

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Updated Guidance for Reporting

October 20, 2020

Summary and Action Items

- To address the evolving response, the Interim Director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has issued an amended Director's Journal Entry with updated reporting requirements for COVID-19. This updated document is attached.
- For current guidance on case classification of COVID-19 for surveillance purposes, please refer to the ODH Infectious Disease Control Manual.

Amended Reporting Requirements for COVID-19

On October 20, 2020, Lance Himes, ODH Interim Director, issued an amended Director's Journal Entry for COVID-19. The reporting requirements have been amended to include the electronic reporting of all laboratory results related to SARS-CoV-2:

- Persons in charge of any laboratory that examines specimens of human origin for evidence of COVID-19 infection shall electronically report within twenty-four (24) hours the results of all such examination, including, but not limited to: positive, negative, invalid, and inconclusive results.
- Laboratory results should be electronically reported according to the protocols outlined for [COVID-19 reporting](#) on the ODH Electronic Laboratory Reporting website.

Case Classification and Infection Prevention and Control

The ODH [Infectious Disease Control Manual](#) (IDCM) provides guidance on infectious diseases from a public health perspective. Please refer to the [COVID-19 Chapter](#) in Section 3 of the IDCM for details on classifying cases for reporting and surveillance purposes, as well as recommendations for public health management to prevent and control the spread of SARS-CoV-2. This document is updated frequently as new information becomes available.

Contact

For general questions related to COVID-19, healthcare providers and facilities should contact their local health department. To locate a local health department, please visit <https://odhgateway.odh.ohio.gov/lhdinformationsystem/Directory/GetMyLHD>

Ohio local health departments should contact the ODH Bureau of Infectious Diseases at 614-995-5599.

Attachments

- Director's Journal Entry (UPDATED October 20, 2020)