

This is an official  
**DHEC Health Update**

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10472-DHU-08-29-2020-COVID-19

## Reporting of COVID-19 Positive and Negative Laboratory Results

### Summary

- Positive and negative test results for COVID-19 must be reported to DHEC urgently within 24 hours by all entities performing testing, including testing at point-of-care or at-home specimen collections processed by laboratories
- This guidance supplements previous guidance provided in the DHEC HANs distributed March 13, 2020, March 29, 2020 and April 22, 2020 available [here](#).

### Reporting requirements

All laboratories, healthcare facilities, and providers are required to report both positive *and* negative test results of COVID-19 to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) (See S.C. Code Ann. § 44-29-15(A)). This requirement applies to laboratories located in or outside of South Carolina and who test specimens from patients who reside in the state. It also applied to testing at point-of-care or with at-home specimen collection.

This requirement has also previously been communicated to laboratories by CMS (See Public Law 116-136, § 18115(a), the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act). The CARES Act requires “every laboratory that performs or analyzes a test that is intended to detect SARS-CoV-2 or to diagnose a possible case of COVID-19” to report the results from each such test to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

In an effort to receive these data in the most efficient and effective manner, the Secretary is requiring that all data be reported through existing public health data reporting methods, and data should be sent to state or local public health departments in accordance with state law or policies.

The CARES Act acknowledged that the data elements requested go above and beyond what has been historically requested, but that this information should be made available in all reporting to state and local public health departments and subsequently the CDC as soon as possible, but no later than August 1, 2020.

## Method of reporting

Positive and negative test results must be reported urgently within 24 hours to DHEC, regardless of the method used for reporting. Facilities that are not already submitting results via Electronic Lab Reporting (ELR) or DHEC's secure reporting portal (SCIONx) should contact [MUHELPDESK@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:MUHELPDESK@dhec.sc.gov) to inquire about ELR submission, or [SCIONHELP@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:SCIONHELP@dhec.sc.gov) to inquire about other reporting options. Additional information regarding disease reporting can be found on DHEC's [List of Reportable Conditions](#).

## DHEC contact information for reportable diseases and reporting requirements

Reporting of **positive and negative COVID-19 test results** 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 2020 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).

<b>Regional Public Health Offices – 2020</b>			
Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region			
<b>MAIL TO:</b>			
<b><u>Lowcountry</u></b> 4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600 N. Charleston, SC 29405 Fax: (843) 953-0051	<b><u>Midlands</u></b> 2000 Hampton Street Columbia, SC 29204 Fax: (803) 576-2993	<b><u>Pee Dee</u></b> 1931 Industrial Park Road Conway, SC 29526 Fax: (843) 915-6502 Fax2: (843) 915-6506	<b><u>Upstate</u></b> 200 University Ridge Greenville, SC 29602 Fax: (864) 282-4373
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<b><u>Lowcountry</u></b> Allendale, Bamberg, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper, Orangeburg  Office: (843) 441-1091 Nights/Weekends: (843) 441-1091	<b><u>Midlands</u></b> Aiken, Barnwell, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lexington, Newberry, Richland, Saluda, York  Office: (888) 801-1046 Nights/Weekends: (888) 801-1046	<b><u>Pee Dee</u></b> Clarendon, Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Sumter, Williamsburg  Office: (843) 915-8886 Nights/Weekends: (843) 915-8845	<b><u>Upstate</u></b> Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, Union  Office: (864) 372-3133 Nights/Weekends: (864) 423-6648
<b>For information on reportable conditions, see</b> <a href="https://www.scdhec.gov/ReportableConditions">https://www.scdhec.gov/ReportableConditions</a>		<b><u>DHEC Bureau of Communicable Disease Prevention &amp; Control</u></b> <b>Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology</b> 2100 Bull St • Columbia, SC 29201 Phone: (803) 898-0861 • Fax: (803) 898-0897 Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902	

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