Dear Colleagues,

Based on updated HHS laboratory reporting requirements in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act (COVID-19 Pandemic Response, Laboratory Data Reporting: CARES Act Section 18115 (cdc.gov)), the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) is modifying the reporting requirements for SARS-CoV-2 laboratory reporting.

**What’s Changing**

**Negative Test Results:** Effective April 4, 2022, reporting of some negative SARS-CoV-2 test results to MSDH will no longer be required, as follows:

- SARS-CoV-2 negative point of care tests performed under a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Certificate of waiver (e.g., point of care rapid antigen and rapid PCR tests).

**What’s not Changing**

**Certain Negative and Inconclusive Test Results Still Require Reporting:**

- All negative and inconclusive SARS-CoV-2 laboratory based Nucleic Acid Amplification (NAAT) test results (see Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAATs) | CDC), conducted in a laboratory with a CLIA Certificate of Registration, Compliance or Accreditation to perform moderate or high complexity testing, are still reportable to MSDH within 24 hours of test result through current processes.

**All Positive Test Results Still Require Reporting:** All positive SARS-CoV-2 test results from any test methodology (e.g., antigen, PCR) and setting are still reportable to MSDH within 24 hours of test result through current processes.
## Reporting Organized by Type of Test and CLIA Certificate Type

### Reporting Criteria by Test Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Test</th>
<th>Positive Result Reporting Required</th>
<th>Negative/Inconclusive Result Reporting Required</th>
<th>Setting/Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory Based NAAT SARS-CoV-2 Tests (Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAATs)</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Laboratory based NAAT performed at facility with a <strong>CLIA Certificate of Registration, Compliance or Accreditation to perform moderate or high complexity testing</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapid/Point of Care SARS-CoV-2 tests (rapid antigen or rapid PCR)</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Not Required</td>
<td>Rapid/Point of Care tests conducted under a <strong>CLIA Certificate of Waiver</strong>. Settings include school and college/university screening programs, testing at correctional facilities, drive through rapid testing sites, and medical providers officers, among others.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Reporting Criteria by CLIA Certificate Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLIA Certificate Type</th>
<th>Test Type</th>
<th>Reporting Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate of Registration, Compliance or Accreditation to perform moderate or high complexity testing</td>
<td>NAAT/Molecular</td>
<td>All results (positive, negative, and inconclusive)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Antigen</td>
<td>Positive results only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate of Waiver</td>
<td>NAAT/Molecular (e.g., rapid PCR)</td>
<td>Positive results only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Antigen</td>
<td>Positive results only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please call the MSDH Office of Epidemiology with questions at 601-576-7725

Regards,

Paul Byers, MD  
State Epidemiologist
**Alerting Message Specification Settings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Originating Agency:</th>
<th>Mississippi State Department of Health</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alerting Program:</td>
<td>MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Message Identifier:</td>
<td>MSHAN-20220331-00566-ALT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program (HAN) Type:</td>
<td>Health Alert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status (Type):</td>
<td>Actual ()</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Message Type:</td>
<td>Alert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference:</td>
<td>MSHAN-00566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severity:</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgement:</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sensitive:</td>
<td>Not Sensitive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Message Expiration:</td>
<td>Undetermined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urgency:</td>
<td>Undetermined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delivery Time:</td>
<td>600 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Originating Agency:</th>
<th>A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alerting Program:</td>
<td>The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Message Identifier:</td>
<td>A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmd-hhmm-TTT (ALT=Health Alert, ADV=Health Advisory, UPD=Health Update, MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service)).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program (HAN) Type:</td>
<td>Categories of Health Alert Messages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Alert:</td>
<td>Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Advisory:</td>
<td>Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Update:</td>
<td>Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Info Service:</td>
<td>Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status (Type):</td>
<td>Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Message Type:</td>
<td>Alert: Indicates an original Alert</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

**Reference:** For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

**Severity:**
- **Extreme:** Extraordinary threat to life or property
- **Severe:** Significant threat to life or property
- **Moderate:** Possible threat to life or property
- **Minor:** Minimal threat to life or property
- **Unknown:** Unknown threat to life or property

**Acknowledgement:** Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

**Sensitive:**
- **Sensitive:** Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
- **Not Sensitive:** Indicates non-sensitive content

**Message Expiration:** Undetermined.

**Urgency:** Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

**Delivery Time:** Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).