

**PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
2023-PAHAN-700-06-06-ADV**

Updated Reporting Requirements for COVID-19 Following the End of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

DATE:	June 6, 2023
TO:	Health Alert Network
FROM:	Debra L. Bogen, M.D., FAAP, Acting Secretary of Health
SUBJECT:	Updated Reporting Requirements for COVID-19 Following the End of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency
DISTRIBUTION:	Statewide
LOCATION:	Statewide
STREET ADDRESS:	n/a
COUNTY:	n/a
MUNICIPALITY:	n/a
ZIP CODE:	n/a

This transmission is a “Health Advisory” provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

HOSPITALS: PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, INFECTION CONTROL, NURSING AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL; **EMS COUNCILS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; **FQHCs:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; **LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Summary

- The federal government ended the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency on May 11, 2023.
- With the expiration of the public health emergency, COVID-19 (i.e., SARS-CoV-2 infection) is no longer a mandated reportable condition in Pennsylvania.
- The Pennsylvania Department of Health (Department) requests that laboratories and other COVID-19 reporters continue to voluntarily report persons with positive COVID-19 antigen or nucleic acid results, including hospitalization and death information associated with these cases, in PA-NEDSS.
- The Department requests voluntary reporting of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children.
- Laboratories and other COVID-19 reporters should discontinue reporting any negative COVID-19 test results.
- COVID-19 remains a reportable condition in the following counties with local health departments established under the Local Health Administration Law of 1951: Philadelphia, Montgomery, and Allegheny.
- The Department strongly recommends utilization of the Department’s Health Incident Management System (HIMS) platform (Juvare EMResource) to meet the federal COVID-19 hospital reporting requirement.
- Reporting requirements for completing the Report of Death for COVID-19 in the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) remain unchanged.
- Requirements for mandatory reporting of COVID-19 vaccination data into the Commonwealth’s immunizations information systems (PhilaVax for Philadelphia, PA-SIIS for the remainder of the Commonwealth) remains unchanged.
- CMS-certified facilities that participate in their corresponding Quality Reporting Program are required to report COVID-19 vaccination data to NHSN.

- CMS certified long-term care facilities (LTCF) are required to report to the LTCF COVID-19 Module Surveillance Pathways (Resident Impact and Facility Capacity, Staff and Personnel Impact, and Therapeutics) on a weekly basis.
- If you have questions, please call DOH at 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258) or your local health department.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (Department) made changes to the reporting requirements for COVID-19 test results to PA-NEDSS, effective after May 11, 2023. This information replaces HAN 633 and HAN 635 and updates HAN 680.

The federal government ended the COVID-19 [Public Health Emergency](#) on May 11, 2023. Federal authorizations to collect certain public health data expired on that date as well. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) made changes to the national COVID-19 monitoring strategy and [COVID Data Tracker](#) to capitalize on improvements in multiple surveillance systems. Weekly COVID-19 hospital admission levels and the percentage of all COVID-19–associated deaths are the primary surveillance indicators. Emergency department visit data will help detect early changes in trends. Genomic surveillance will continue to help identify and monitor SARS-CoV-2 variants. Full details regarding CDC's surveillance changes are located at [COVID-19 Surveillance After Expiration of the Public Health Emergency Declaration — United States, May 11, 2023 | MMWR \(cdc.gov\)](#)

With the expiration of the public health emergency, COVID-19 (i.e., SARS-CoV-2 infection) is no longer a mandated reportable condition in Pennsylvania. Even though COVID-19 is no longer reportable, the Department remains dedicated to monitoring and preventing severe illness and death from this disease. In accordance with CDC, the Department will continue to monitor COVID-19 disease severity and trends by assessing hospitalization and death data, emergency department visits via syndromic surveillance, and levels of SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater through the [Pennsylvania Wastewater Surveillance System \(PAWSS\)](#).

PA-NEDSS Reporting

The Department is requesting continued reporting of positive COVID-19 results into PA-NEDSS to maintain awareness of ongoing trends overall and in various sub-populations.

Now that the public health emergency has expired, the Department is asking that laboratories and other COVID-19 reporters to:

- 1) Continue reporting persons with positive COVID-19 antigen or nucleic acid results to PA-NEDSS on a voluntary basis.
- 2) Discontinue reporting of any negative COVID-19 test results.
- 3) Continue reporting of COVID-related hospitalizations and deaths into PA-NEDSS on a voluntary basis.
- 4) Continue reporting of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) on a voluntary basis. Reporting instructions outlined in PAHAN 680 should be followed when reporting cases.

The voluntary reporting of positive tests for COVID-19 to the Department is not prohibited by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Reporting is conducted for the continued purpose of preventing the spread of COVID-19 and aligns with surveillance pursuant to Pennsylvania's Disease Prevention and Control Law.

COVID-19 remains a reportable condition in the following counties with local health departments established under the Local Health Administration Law of 1951: Philadelphia; Montgomery; and Allegheny. Any reporter who is located in one of these jurisdictions or reports results on individuals residing in these jurisdictions are required to follow requirements outlined by these local health departments.

Juware EMResource Hospital Reporting

On August 10, 2022, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule ([87 FR 48780 through 49499](#)) revising the hospital and critical access hospital (CAH) infection prevention and control Conditions of Participation (CoP) requirements to continue COVID-19-related reporting requirements. Based on this directive, hospitals and CAHs are required to continue to report data for COVID-19. The Department strongly recommends utilization of the Department's Health Incident Management System (HIMS) platform (Juware EMResource) using previously issued Bureau of Emergency Preparedness and Response guidance. These data will be transmitted to NHSN daily in compliance with the CMS final rule and will ensure that the Department's emergency preparedness and response teams have timely and accurate data to address future threats.

Electronic Death Registration System Reporting (EDRS)

The Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries' requirements for completing the Report of Death for COVID-19 in Pennsylvania's Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) remain unchanged.

COVID-19 Immunization Information System Reporting

Requirements for mandatory reporting of COVID-19 vaccination data into the Commonwealth's immunizations information systems (PhilaVax for Philadelphia, PA-SIIS for the remainder of the Commonwealth) remains unchanged. Vaccine providers should continue to follow previously released guidance. Any future changes will be communicated to all vaccine providers.

National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN): COVID-19 Vaccination Data Reporting

CMS-certified facilities that participate in their corresponding Quality Reporting Program are required to report [COVID-19 vaccination data](#) to NHSN. The below table lists the frequency of reporting, NHSN vaccination module name and type of persons for whom reporting is mandated for several facility types.

Facility type	Frequency	NHSN Module name	Person Type
Acute care, critical access hospital, psychiatric facility, rehabilitation facility, long-term acute care hospital, PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At least one week per month• Any week within the month	Weekly COVID-19 Vaccination Module	Healthcare personnel
Dialysis facilities	Last week of each month	Patient COVID-19 Vaccination module and Healthcare Personnel COVID-19 Vaccination module	Healthcare personnel and patients
Long-term care facilities that are CMS certified	Weekly	COVID-19 Vaccination module	Healthcare personnel and residents
Ambulatory Surgical Center	At least one week per month	Weekly COVID-19 Vaccination Module	Healthcare personnel

National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN): Additional COVID-19 data from long-term care facilities

CMS certified long-term care facilities (LTCF) are required to report to the LTCF COVID-19 Module Surveillance Pathways (Resident Impact and Facility Capacity, Staff and Personnel Impact, and Therapeutics) on a weekly basis. In 2020, CMS published an IFC (CMS-5531-IFC) requiring all LTC

facilities to report COVID-19 information using the CDC, NHSN (42 CFR 483(g)). This requirement was extended through a final rule (CMS-1747-F) and is set to terminate on December 31, 2024.

Additional NSHN reporting information is located at [Resources by Facility | NHSN | CDC](#).

The Department appreciates the tremendous effort that all reporters have made over the past three years. Your work allowed the Department, and the country, to monitor the course of the pandemic, recognize and respond to localized outbreaks, and direct mitigation efforts.

If you have any questions, please call DOH at 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258) or your local health department.

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.

This information is current as of June 6, 2023 but may be modified in the future.
