

DPH Updates: DHIN Access to COVID-19 Results, Provider Reporting Requirements, Return to School/Work Notes, and Access to Data and Updated DPH Documents

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On Wednesday, the Division of Public Health (DPH) and Medical Society of MSD partnered on another successful call to update the medical community on several key topics including access to COVID-19 results via the DHIN, provider reporting requirements, and new child care guidance related to return-to-work and school notes after exclusion. I'll summarize that information below and provide additional information on where to find the most up to date documents for providers, and data.

COVID-19 Test Result Access via the DHIN

An important update is that COVID-19 test results are now available via the Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN) for health care personnel and in some cases, patients. As Delaware's statewide health information exchange, DHIN provides a secure Community Health Record (CHR) through which physicians' offices, hospitals, labs, and imaging facilities share clinical information safely and effectively. DHIN is now able to interface with the Delaware Electronic Reporting and Surveillance System (DERSS) so that laboratory-processed COVID-19 test results will be available to health care personnel through CHRs, with plans to make other COVID-19 test results (i.e. point-of-care and rapid test results) available through CHRs in the near future.

Health care personnel should follow the standard procedure with DHIN when they discover that results are not available in the CHRs by contacting the DHIN Service Desk either through the direct line, 302-480-1770 or by emailing servicedesk@dhin.org. A Service Desk representative will open a ticket and research the issue. The provider will need to include in the request the patient's name, date of birth, and the facility/source that would have processed the result. DPH may not know the source labs that do not send results to DPH, so reporting these issues will allow DHIN to track requests and respond back directly to the user.

Through Health Check Connect, powered by DHIN, patients 18 years and older can safely and securely view certain test results and clinical records, read submitted doctors' notes, and add prescription information and data from health tracking devices. After enrollment, patients will also automatically be registered with DHIN's mobile messaging service that notifies when test results are available for viewing. Patients can register at <https://mydhinphr.com>.

Staff from an ordering provider's office that is not able to obtain results after first looking in DHIN and then contacting the service desk, may contact the DPH COVID-19 call center at 1-866-408-1899 or email DPHCall@delaware.gov. Patients should be encouraged to register with DHIN to obtain test results or contact their provider's office for that information first. If unsuccessful at obtaining results from DHIN or their provider, they may call or email the DPH COVID-19 call center as listed above.

Reporting Requirements

Information regarding communicable disease reporting in Delaware can be found online at <https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/dpc/rptdisease.html>. Providers should report diseases to the DPH Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at 1-888-295-5156, or report through reportdisease@delaware.gov within 24 hours of clinical suspicion or submission of test samples to a commercial lab to allow for surveillance and monitoring as appropriate.

COVID-19 is a reportable condition to DPH under Delaware Code (3.0 Report of Outbreaks and Potential Causes of a Public Health Emergency, 3.1 Outbreaks, Any health care provider, having knowledge of any outbreak of any notifiable disease or clusters of any illness which may be of public concern, shall report such outbreaks within 24 hours to the Division Director or designee.). The

requirement to report COVID-19 is also covered under the category of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), as SARS CoV-2 is the virus that causes COVID-19.

In addition to this requirement for health care providers, patient-care facilities, and laboratories, those who are requested and authorized to notify DPH of notifiable disease even if no health care provider has been consulted include parents, guardians, householders; midwives, superintendents, principals, teachers or counselors of public or private schools; administrators of public or private institutions of higher learning; owners, operators, or teachers of child-care facilities; owners or managers of dairies, restaurants, or food storages, food-processing establishments or food outlets; superintendents or managers of public or private camps, homes or institutions; directors or supervisors of military installations; military or Veterans Administration hospitals, prisons or juvenile detention centers.

All COVID-19 test results from any laboratory must also be reported to DPH via the Delaware Electronic Reporting Surveillance System (DERSS). Providers must confirm with their designated laboratories that they have the ability to transmit results to DERSS through approved methods – additional information regarding laboratory reporting can be requested through reportdisease@delaware.gov.

All providers who order testing for SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 are required to include demographic information to include date of birth, sex, race, ethnicity (Hispanic or non-Hispanic), phone number and address for every patient for whom a test is ordered. Laboratories are also required to include this information when reporting SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 test results to DPH.

Return-to-work/school notes

DPH has worked with the Department of Education on guidance for childcare providers related to permissions needed for allowing staff and children back to centers after a positive COVID test result, or identification as a close contact. The guidance indicates that symptomatic staff/students should not return until a medical provider has provided a letter stating they may do so. If the symptomatic individual is tested for COVID-19, the guidance permits either a medical provider return-to-work/daycare letter after the isolation period has passed, or a DPH letter of release from monitoring. If the COVID test is negative, the guidance recommends consultation with the health care provider to determine if the situation warrants continuation of isolation.

Additional Data and Information Resources for Providers

Providers are reminded to visit the provider and testing pages of coronavirus.delaware.gov for the most updated COVID-19 guidance. The following documents have been updated on the Medical Provider page: Rapid Testing Protocols and Rapid Testing Guidance Brochure (8/17/20), COVID-19 Patient Instructions After Testing (8/12/20), Essential Services Screening Policy (7/21/20), Management of Persons with Suspected COVID-19 Exposure, Discontinuation of Home Isolation (7.27.20), and Return to Work Guidance (7.27.20 - under volunteers).

For the most recent information on testing locations, visit de.gov/gettested and see the testing calendar with types of test, and turnaround times for test result returns. Watch for upcoming news on the addition of more Walgreens locations and testing in Public Health Clinics and State Service Centers.

For the latest COVID-19 data, providers should visit de.gov/healthycommunity. Recent additions to the site include data related to school reopening metrics and a contact tracing dashboard.

DPH also wants to thank the medical community for its partnership in navigating these challenging times. We appreciate the dedication of you and your staff to ensuring the health and safety of your patients.