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Message to jurisdictions ELR/CELR contacts

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To: "nssp (CDC)" <nssp@cdc.gov>

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Dear laboratory data and syndromic surveillance partners,

We are considering making COVID Electronic Laboratory Reporting (CELR) summary data available to ESSENCE users on BioSense platform, and we are seeking your comments on this proposal.

The National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP) team at CDC has been working with the Applied Physics Laboratory at Johns Hopkins University on fusion models that combine data from multiple sources, including laboratory test results and emergency department visit data. These fusion models are designed to alert ESSENCE users to spikes in COVID transmission at the county level. Currently, these models are built on a subset of data from six commercial laboratories that report directly to CDC through ESSENCE. The addition of CELR data will increase the comprehensiveness and representativeness of this approach, allowing better tracking of COVID transmission and improving alerting to states and local authorities.

The data sent to ESSENCE would be a daily summary table generated of laboratory tests by county, by result, by age group (e.g., 0-4, 5-11, 12-17, 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, 75+), and by test type (PCR or antigen). CDC would generate the summary table, and no additional work is needed from you.

As with other data in ESSENCE, state and local access to the CELR data would be determined by the NSSP site administrator in each state or county. The default view is for state users to have access only to data and alerts from their own state. Federal users would be granted access to the CELR data in ESSENCE using the same access rules as those used for other systems, such as AIMS and HHS Protect.

Please reach out to us with an email to both nssp@cdc.gov and edx@cdc.gov by Friday, February 12, 2021 if you have any questions or would like to opt out of making your state's CELR data available in ESSENCE.

Thank you,

Paula W. Yoon, ScD, MPH

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