

Dear colleagues,

On April 6, you received an email entitled “*Reporting Covid-19 Lab testing data to CDC*” (email attached). In that email, CDC colleagues outlined new jurisdictional COVID-19 lab data reporting requirements necessary to satisfy HHS mandates.

The new reporting requirements asked that you upload daily aggregate reports until a data feed to the AIMS platform is established, which will allow your jurisdiction to forward line listing lab data received through existing ELR mechanisms. Starting this week, APHL, in collaboration with CDC, will begin supporting your organizations by providing technical assistance (TA) focused on meeting that second reporting goal- the transmission of line listing COVID-19- laboratory data through an AIMS connection to CDC.

The technical assistance team is scaling up operations and we plan to host our first kick-off meeting this week. Below, you will find information about the approach, timelines, and expectations of this project – our goal is to get your jurisdiction on-boarded to AIMS as quickly and as painlessly as possible.

Many of you have already been through the TA process for other APHL/CDC ELR projects, and this will be a similar approach, however, due to the time-sensitive nature of this effort, we will streamlining parts of this process.

Approach:

Based on submitted survey responses (link sent in the 4/6 email), the TA team will organize PHAs into cohorts of 5-7, based on current status of reporting and other criteria-

If you have not completed this short survey, we ask that you complete it as soon as possible:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/7879df6328f94453961922c31c82912b>

- After an initial kick-off with each PHA cohort to assess current status, cohorts will start meeting on a twice-weekly basis to collect status and discuss any questions (30-minute calls)
- Cohorts will be meeting in a staggered, rolling manner, with initial cohorts starting as early as this week, with others following quickly after.
- These cohort activities will be fast-paced, with a goal of 2-3 weeks to get into production.

Upcoming milestones:

- APHL will provide cohort assignments to PHAs this week
- APHL and CDC will host the first technical assistance kick-off meeting with first PHA cohort this week
- Initiate twice-weekly TA status meetings with first cohort team(s) next week

Expectations:

- Ensure each PHA is adequately represented at the twice-weekly meetings. Typically, we would expect a project lead, a tech lead and any system admins or developers responsible for surveillance system changes; PHAs should use their best judgment

We **greatly appreciate** your help in meeting the CELR project goals; however, we recognize the constraints you are facing- both in time and in resources. To assist you as best we can through this response effort, we are increasing the number of subject matter experts available through the APHL/CDC traditional TA model and plan to send out additional information regarding this COVID-19 TA availability, both for the CELR project as well as other COVID related informatics needs/support.

The APHL team looks forward to serving you during this time and we thank you for your dedication to public health and for the amazingly hard work you are all undertaking during this pandemic.