

Greetings,

This is to inform entities that submit SARS-CoV-2 test results to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) of updated COVID-19 lab reporting guidelines in effect starting Monday, April 4, 2022.

The revised U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Section 18115 of the CARES Act replaces a blanket requirement to report all SARS-CoV-2 test results, and reduces the burden on reporters. In response to the updated guidance from HHS, VDH issued a [variance](#) regarding SARS-CoV-2 reporting requirements in Virginia. This information was also provided in a 4/5/2022 [Clinician Letter](#). The full HHS guidance may be found [here](#).

Entities are required to report:

- ALL (positive, negative and inconclusive) Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAAT) through whatever mechanism your entity is currently using, i.e., electronic lab reporting (ELR), flat file, or Point of Care (POC) portal.
- All POSITIVE antigen tests through whatever mechanism your lab is currently using (ELR, flat file, or POC portal).

Entities can STOP reporting:

- Negative or inconclusive antigen test results; and
- All antibody testing results.

VDH Point of Care (POC) Portal

- Non-required test options (negative and inconclusive antigen test results and antibody test results) will be disabled from the POC portal as of close of business (COB) 4/5/2022.
- However, schools will continue to have the option to report these results at an aggregate level (for the foreseeable future).

[Ask on order entry \(AOE\) questions](#) are no longer requested by HHS, however, VDH requests that laboratories, if able to do so accurately, continue to send AOE information.

Please note, if you, your laboratory or medical care facility continues to send optional results, VDH will receive but not process them in our surveillance system. Antibody and antigen positivity rates will be removed from public dashboards (due to the lack of antibody tests and negative antigen tests going forward).

Please see the attachment for a useful guide. If you have further questions, please contact DIISMessaging@vdh.virginia.gov.

Thanks!