



# Interim Guidance for Long-term Care Facility Reporting of Antigen Test Results November 16, 2020 (replaces version dated October 6, 2020)

Thank you for your continued engagement with COVID-19 testing. The information you provide is key to ensure timely public health actions and helps us have a complete understanding of the status of COVID-19 activity in North Carolina.

This interim guidance provides information on two items:

- Reporting COVID-19 antigen results from your facility to public health, and
- A COVID-19 test portal for reporting aggregate, deidentified COVID-19 test numbers for those facilities that do not report results electronically.

## **Reporting Antigen Test Results**

If your facility is using a **point-of-care antigen test device** for detection of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, this guidance serves as a reminder that providers are required per North Carolina Administrative Code [Rule 10A NCAC 41A.0107](#) to report **all results**, positive and negative, of diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2. This includes antigen test results.

For facilities that are reporting detailed results through **National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN), Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) or COVID-19 Laboratory Data Automation (CLDA) outlined in the [guidance for reporting results](#), please include all Antigen testing in your reporting results**. This is the preferred means of reporting COVID-19 test results. If you are reporting via any of these platforms it is not necessary to email your results to NC DHHS.

For long-term care facilities who are not yet reporting detailed data to us through NHSN, ELR or CLDA, please follow this reporting guidance.

- **Long-term care facilities** are required to report all test results that will not be reported by a laboratory in accordance with this guidance within 24 hours of receiving the test result.
- **Long-term care facilities** should provide:
  - Aggregate positive and negative test counts through the [Electronic COVID-19 Aggregate Test Reporting \(eCATR\) process](#).

## **AND**

- Detailed positives and negatives via [secure spreadsheet](#) to NCDHHS. This spreadsheet **MUST** be submitted securely via email according to the following instructions:

## NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- Password protect the spreadsheet using the password provided by the Division of Public Health.
- Label the Subject line: “Confidential Test information”.
- Encrypt the email to which the spreadsheet is attached.
- Please email your password protected Excel spreadsheet via encrypted email to [LabTeam@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:LabTeam@dhhs.nc.gov).
- For any staff tested at the facility, personal address and date of birth must be included in the report.

The full [guidance for reporting results](#) is available on the [healthcare guidance section](#) of the NC DHHS COVID-19 website. Additional guidance regarding [appropriate use of antigen testing](#) is also available on our website. Providers needing consultation can call the NC Division of Public Health epidemiologist on call at 919-733-3419.

### **Announcing a new electronic volume reporting portal**

In an effort to streamline and simplify the COVID-19 test data collection process, NC DHHS has developed an [electronic survey](#) to collect data on all daily COVID-19 testing **volumes** (positive and negative results) from facilities or laboratories not currently reporting all results through Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) or COVID-19 Lab Data Automation (CLDA). The survey, called “Electronic COVID-19 Aggregate Test Reporting” (eCATR) will be used to collect aggregate daily testing **volumes** from laboratories and/or point of care (POC) facilities.

#### **Please note:**

- **This survey does not replace the [requirement to submit your detailed positive COVID-19 test results using the spreadsheet outlined above](#) to provide information necessary for surveillance of COVID-19.**
- **This survey does not replace the staff testing reporting requirements for nursing homes under [Secretarial Order No. 2](#) and [Secretarial Order No. 4](#), which are submitted through the [COVID-19 Testing: Nursing Home Reporting Portal](#).**

This aggregate data will ensure we are able to more accurately account for COVID-19 testing and capacities in NC. Our goal is to ease the burden of reporting by streamlining the data collection and reporting process.

Thank you again for all you are doing to protect the health of residents in your facilities.