



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official  
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

**MESSAGE ID:** MSHAN-20220331-00566-ALT (Health Alert)  
**RECIPIENTS:** All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, PAs, and  
Healthcare Providers – Statewide  
Thursday, March 31, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Updated SARS-CoV-2 Reporting Requirements

Dear Colleagues,

Based on updated HHS laboratory reporting requirements in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act ([COVID-19 Pandemic Response, Laboratory Data Reporting: CARES Act Section 18115 \(cdc.gov\)](#)), the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) is modifying the reporting requirements for SARS-CoV-2 laboratory reporting.

**What's Changing**

**Negative Test Results:** Effective April 4, 2022, reporting of some negative SARS-CoV-2 test results to MSDH **will no longer be required**, as follows:

- SARS-CoV-2 negative point of care tests performed under a **Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Certificate of waiver** (e.g., point of care rapid antigen and rapid PCR tests).

**What's not Changing**

**Certain Negative and Inconclusive Test Results Still Require Reporting:**

- All **negative and inconclusive** SARS-CoV-2 laboratory based Nucleic Acid Amplification (NAAT) test results (see [Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests \(NAATs\) | CDC](#)), conducted in a laboratory with a CLIA Certificate of Registration, Compliance or Accreditation to perform moderate or high complexity testing, are still reportable to MSDH within 24 hours of test result through current processes.

**All Positive Test Results Still Require Reporting:** All **positive** SARS-CoV-2 test results from any test methodology (e.g., antigen, PCR) and setting are still reportable to MSDH within 24 hours of test result through current processes.



**Reporting Organized by Type of Test and CLIA Certificate Type**

**Reporting Criteria by Test Type**

Type of Test	Positive Result Reporting Required	Negative/Inconclusive Result Reporting Required	Setting/Examples
Laboratory Based NAAT SARS-CoV-2 Tests ( <a href="#">Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAATs)</a>   <a href="#">CDC</a> )	Required	Required	Laboratory based NAAT performed at facility with a <b>CLIA Certificate of Registration, Compliance or Accreditation to perform moderate or high complexity testing</b>
Rapid/Point of Care SARS-CoV-2 tests (rapid antigen or rapid PCR)	Required	Not Required	Rapid/Point of Care tests conducted under a <b>CLIA Certificate of Waiver</b> . Settings include school and college/university screening programs, testing at correctional facilities, drive through rapid testing sites, and medical providers officers, among others.

**Reporting Criteria by CLIA Certificate Type**

CLIA Certificate Type	Test Type	Reporting Requirement
Certificate of Registration, Compliance or Accreditation to perform moderate or high complexity testing	NAAT/Molecular	All results (positive, negative, and inconclusive)
	Antigen	Positive results only
Certificate of Waiver	NAAT/Molecular (e.g., rapid PCR)	Positive results only
	Antigen	Positive results only

Please call the MSDH Office of Epidemiology with questions at 601-576-7725

Regards,

Paul Byers, MD  
State Epidemiologist



**Alerting Message Specification Settings**

**Originating Agency:** Mississippi State Department of Health  
**Alerting Program:** MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)  
**Message Identifier:** MSHAN-20220331-00566-ALT  
**Program (HAN) Type:** Health Alert  
**Status (Type):** Actual ()  
**Message Type:** Alert  
**Reference:** MSHAN-00566  
**Severity:** Unknown  
**Acknowledgement:** No  
**Sensitive:** Not Sensitive  
**Message Expiration:** Undetermined  
**Urgency:** Undetermined  
**Delivery Time:** 600 minutes

**Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings**

**Originating Agency:** A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

**Alerting Program:** The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

**Message Identifier:** A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (**ALT=Health Alert**, **ADV=Health Advisory**, **UPD=Health Update**, **MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service**)).

**Program (HAN) Type:** Categories of Health Alert Messages.

**Health Alert:** Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Health Info Service:** Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Status (Type):**

Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event  
Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert  
Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded

**Message Type:**

Alert: Indicates an original Alert



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded  
Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled  
Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

**Reference:** For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

**Severity:**

Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property  
Severe: Significant threat to life or property  
Moderate: Possible threat to life or property  
Minor: Minimal threat to life or property  
Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

**Acknowledgement:** Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

**Sensitive:**

Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content  
Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

**Message Expiration:** Undetermined.

**Urgency:** Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

**Delivery Time:** Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).