

# Frequently Asked Questions: Revised Notice of Statewide Surveillance for COVID-19/SARS CoV-2 under the Minnesota Communicable Disease Rule (4605.7080)

## Background

The Commissioner of Health (“commissioner”) has authority under the Minnesota Communicable Disease Rules (“the rules”) to establish reporting requirements for new or emerging infectious diseases like COVID-19. This is the fourth reporting notice the commissioner has issued for COVID-19:

- In March 2020, the commissioner issued a reporting notice for COVID-19, just prior to identification of the initial cases in Minnesota.
- In December 2022, the commissioner issued a more detailed reporting notice to align with how reporting had evolved during the pandemic and to ease reporting requirements for community settings such as K-12 schools, child care, long-term care facilities, and shelters.
- In May 2023, the commissioner issued a notice establishing state-level requirements for reporting of test results for COVID-19 when federal requirements were expiring.
- In August 2023, the commissioner issued a notice revising (further easing) reporting requirements for most community settings including K-12 schools, child care, institutions of higher education, some state-licensed residential facilities, corrections, and shelters.

## Do I need to read all four notices to see the reporting requirements that apply?

No. The fourth notice contains all reporting requirements - both revised and continuing. You can read the notice the commissioner issued in August and do not need to refer to prior notices.

## Why is MDH issuing a Notice of Statewide Surveillance for COVID-19 now?

MDH is issuing this fourth notice to further ease COVID-19 reporting requirements for most community settings: K-12 schools, child care, institutions of higher education, certain state licensed residential facilities, shelters, and corrections facilities. The timing for the notice is intended to coincide with the start of the school year.

Reporting requirements remain unchanged for all other reporters such as health care providers, hospitals and clinics, CLIA-certified laboratories, skilled nursing facilities, and assisted living facilities.

## **Where can I find the full notice?**

The full notice can be viewed at [Reporting of COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2 under the Minnesota Communicable Disease Rules, Chapter 4605.7080](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/reportable/rule/process/) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/reportable/rule/process/>).

## **Who is covered by the notice?**

The notice applies to disease reporters. This includes health care providers, clinics, hospitals, CLIA certified laboratories, and entities operating under a CLIA certificate of waiver to conduct tests for SARS-CoV-2. It also includes these community settings: long-term care facilities, DHS- and MDH-licensed residential facilities, K-12 schools, child care, institutes of higher education, correctional facilities, and shelters.

The notice provides more detail on who is covered.

## **Is there a particular section of the notice that applies to certain disease reporters?**

There are sections that apply to certain disease reporters, but you may also want to review the complete notice. Some specific sections are:

- Health care providers, hospitals, clinics, CLIA-certified laboratories and entities operating under a CLIA certificate of waiver to conduct tests (Section II.B.)
- Long-term care facilities and DHS- and MDH-license residential facilities (Section II.C.)
- K-12 schools and child care programs (Section II.D.)
- Institutes of higher education (Section II.E.)
- Correctional facilities (Section II.F.)
- Shelters (Section II.G.)

## **Do entities like schools, long-term care, and other community settings still need to report point of care (POC) test results conducted under a CLIA certificate of waiver?**

Yes. Entities conducting POC testing for SARS-CoV-2 under a CLIA certificate of waiver must continue to meet requirements for reporting positive test results to MDH. Refer to Section II.B. of the notice for these requirements.

## Who do I contact with questions?

For questions or more information, please email [Health.R-Congregate@state.mn.us](mailto:Health.R-Congregate@state.mn.us) or contact Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention & Control (IDEPC), PO Box 64975, St. Paul, MN 55164-00975, 651-201-5414.

*8/10/2023 To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5414.*