



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

December 2, 2020
AMENDED December 16, 2020

AL TSA: NH #2020-091
AL TSA: ALF # 2020-059

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROCESS FOR POINT-OF-CARE TESTING REPORTING

Dear Administrator/Provider

The letter is amended to:

- **Notify facilities that the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) [reporting process website](#) has been updated.**
- **Clarify that facilities are NOT required to report to both local and state public health authorities, but they must report to one. If a facility is currently reporting to the local health jurisdiction (LHJ), they may continue to do so unless the LHJ requests results be sent to the DOH.**
- **Amend email contact information at the close of the letter to provide a more direct communication if there are questions about the state reporting requirements.**

Facilities administering point-of-care (POC) testing for COVID-19 (such as BD Veritort, Sofia Quidel, AbbottBinex NOW, and other similar COVID-19 antigen testing) must report all their COVID-19 testing results to the Department of Health (DOH) or their Local Health Jurisdiction. Reporting COVID-19 test results is legally required by Washington State [Chapter 246-101 WAC](#) and Washington State Board of Health's emergency rule, [WAC 246-101-017](#). Reporting is also a federal requirement for all facilities using POC COVID-19 testing devices under a CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments) Certificate of Waiver.

On Tuesday, November 24, 2020, DOH released a letter regarding the process for reporting POC testing results and provided a link to a website with detailed information for reporting test results to DOH. The process for reporting can be [accessed via this link](#).

Please note, the first option on the list is the use of the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). Many facilities have already started using this option. If your facility is already enrolled and has level 3 access for reporting, continue to use the NHSN. **However**, at this time the DOH system is not able to accept results from the NHSN system. As a result, your facility must use a second reporting system identified on the list in the link above in order to meet Washington State reporting requirements until the DOH system is able to accept information from NHSN. The DOH is actively working with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to be granted access to the NHSN data reported by facilities.

For nursing homes, reporting test results to NHSN is required, and it is strongly suggested that any nursing home that has not yet obtained level 3 access to the NHSN reporting system continue to work on obtaining needed access. Assisted living facilities are not required to use NHSN and may choose any of the options from the list in the link above.

Dear NH and ALF Provider: THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROCESS FOR POINT-OF-CARE TESTING REPORTING

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Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions about state COVID test reporting, please email the DOH Surveillance Section at doh-surv@doh.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring

Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: *"Transforming Lives"*