



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

*PO Box 47890 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7890  
Tel: 360-236-4030 • 711 Washington State Relay*

August 14, 2020

Dear Health Care Providers:

I'm writing to update you about recent federal regulatory requirements for COVID-19 lab reporting to include more granular information about individual cases

The Washington State Board of Health recently passed emergency rules to implement these requirements. However, the Department of Health is not yet in a position to receive these newly require data electronically. **So, for the meantime, you should continue submitting complete patient address, phone number, and race and ethnicity data in your case reports and lab orders (using the categories you have been using, not the new categories in the emergency rule).**

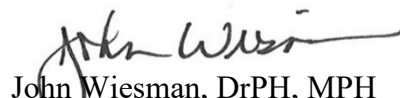
To help you prepare for the eventual implementation of the new required data, we will hold a listening session on Friday, August 21, 2020, at 10 a.m. PDT to hear from you and to find ways to collaborate as we update our systems. We will send more information about the listening session soon. We will also provide guidance as we work through the requirements and inform you of our progress through our listserv and [website](#).

While we work toward this new reporting, I'm asking everyone to redouble their efforts to make sure **ALL** case reports and lab requests include complete patient address, phone number, and race/ethnicity data. Many, many of these reports are missing this key information which is delaying our ability to start critically important, time sensitive contact tracing to prevent potential further exposure to control this pandemic. I appreciate your diligence to this detail.

Our state and nation are in unprecedented times, and we appreciate all you are doing and have done to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

You have a critical role in reporting diseases in Washington State, and we appreciate your work. If you have additional questions, please contact [ecr@doh.wa.gov](mailto:ecr@doh.wa.gov). We greatly appreciate your patience as we update our systems, and we will let you know as soon as we are ready for the next steps.

Sincerely,



John Wiesman, DrPH, MPH  
Secretary of Health

Background:

- On June 4, 2020, HHS sent notice about federal COVID-19 reporting requirements (<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/p0604-new-lab-data-reporting.html>).
- On July 30, the Washington State Board of Health adopted an emergency rule based on these federal requirements. The emergency rule went into effect July 31<sup>st</sup> (<https://sboh.wa.gov/Meetings/MeetingInformation/2020/July30SpecialMeetingOnline>).
- On August 3, HHS sent implementation guidance (<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-implementation.pdf>).
- The CDC requires public health departments to daily submit de-identified data to the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/reporting-lab-data.html>).
- Department of Health website for reporting COVID-19 results (<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020COVID19/HealthcareProviders/ReportingTestResults>).