



ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA

**DIRECTING ALL LABORATORIES CONDUCTING COVID-19 DIAGNOSTIC TESTS
TO REPORT COVID-19 TEST INFORMATION – INCLUDING POSITIVE,
NEGATIVE, AND INCONCLUSIVE TEST RESULTS – TO PUBLIC HEALTH
AUTHORITIES**

NO. HO-COVID19-30

DATE OF ORDER: SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

Please read this Order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. (California Health and Saf. Code, § 120295.)

Summary of the Order

The virus that causes Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be monitored and slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle the influx of new patients and safeguard public health and safety. Because of the risk of the rapid spread of the virus, and the need to protect all members of the community and the Bay Area region, especially our members most vulnerable to the virus and health care providers, it is necessary that the results of COVID-19 diagnostic tests be reported promptly to public health officials. Health Officer Order No. HO-COVID19-02 (the “Prior Order”), issued on March 24, 2020, required all laboratories conducting nucleic acid amplification testing and serologic testing for the COVID-19 virus, or COVID-19 infection, to comply with specified reporting requirements. Under this Order, which supersedes the Prior Order, results of COVID-19 antigen testing must also be reported.

**UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE
SECTIONS 101040 AND 120175, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF
CONTRA COSTA (“HEALTH OFFICER”) ORDERS:**

- 1. Prior Order.** This Order supersedes the Prior Order.
- 2. Intent.** The intent of this Order is to ensure that any Laboratory conducting Diagnostic Tests adheres to Reporting Requirements established by the Health Officer as those initially



capitalized terms are defined in Section 5 and to ensure that complete Diagnostic Test data is promptly shared with individuals from whom the tested samples were taken, their health care providers, if any, and with public health officials, using the California Reportable Disease Information Exchange (“CalREDIE”) system.

3. **Reporting Obligation.** Every Laboratory that generates any test result that was collected from a resident of the County or was collected or processed in the County from a Diagnostic Test must fully and timely comply with all Reporting Requirements.
4. **Definitions.** For purposes this Order, the following terms will have the meaning given below.
 - a. “Reporting Requirements” means all of the following:
 - i. Reporting all positive, negative, and inconclusive Diagnostic Test results to public health officials in accordance with the 8-hour timeframe applicable to SARS-CoV-2 test reports, set forth in Section 2505, subdivisions (a)(3) and (e)(2), of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations.
 - ii. Reporting Diagnostic Test results to public health officials electronically via the CalREDIE system, except as set forth herein. Where a Laboratory promptly submits Diagnostic Test results via the CalREDIE system, no further reporting to public health officials is required. Where a Laboratory is unable to report electronically via the CalREDIE system, it must report to Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) at COVID.Data@cchealth.org using the attached CSV file format, or to the health jurisdiction where the patient resides.)
 - iii. For each Diagnostic Test, including in the report to public health officials all of the information required under Section 2505, subdivision (c) of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations. Laboratories are requested, but not required, to also report whether a specimen was collected from an inpatient or outpatient individual.
 - b. “Diagnostic Test” means nucleic acid amplification testing, antigen testing, or serologic testing to determine the presence of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) or novel coronavirus infection.
 - c. “Laboratory” means a facility that:
 - i. Is certified to perform testing classified as high complexity under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) of section 353 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. § 263a.); or
 - ii. Has a certificate of waiver under 42 U.S.C section 263a.
5. **Basis for Order.** This Order is issued based on evidence of increasing occurrence of COVID-19 within the County and throughout the Bay Area, scientific evidence and best



practices regarding the most effective approaches to slow the transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, and evidence that the age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the population of the County places it at risk for serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in the general public, there is a public health emergency throughout the County. The scientific evidence shows that at this stage of the emergency, it is essential to slow virus transmission as much as possible to protect the most vulnerable and to prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed. Accurate and precise diagnostic testing is an essential tool for combatting the spread of COVID-19. By sharing high quality test result data at scale, state and local health authorities can better track COVID-19, predict its spread, and better focus public resources to end this global pandemic.

6. **Cases Within the County.** This Order also is issued in light of the existence of 15,489 cases of COVID-19 in the County, as well as 194 deaths, as of September 15, 2020, and a significant and increasing number of suspected cases of community transmission and likely further significant increases in transmission.
7. **Incorporation of Emergency Proclamations.** This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference, the March 12, 2020, Executive Order (Executive Order N-25-20) issued by Governor Gavin Newsom, the March 4, 2020 Proclamation of a State of Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom, the March 10, 2020, Proclamation by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors declaring the existence of a local emergency, and guidance issued by CDPH, as each of them have been or may be supplemented.
8. **Enforcement.** Pursuant to Government Code sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code section 101029, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and the Chiefs of Police within the County ensure compliance with and enforce this Order. The violation of any provision of this Order, including any law or regulation cited in this Order, constitutes an imminent threat and creates an immediate menace to public health and may lead to enforcement measures or referral to the relevant enforcement authorities.
9. **Effective Date and Time.** This Order shall become effective at 12:01 a.m. on September 17, 2020 and will continue to be in effect until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.
10. **Copies; Contact Information.** The County must promptly provide copies of this Order as follows: (1) by making copies available at the Office of the Director of Contra Costa Health Services, 1220 Morello Avenue, Suite 200, Martinez, CA 94553; (2) by posting on the Contra Costa Health Services website (<https://www.cchealth.org>); and (3) by providing to any member of the public requesting a copy. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any Laboratory that is likely to be impacted by this Order is strongly encouraged to post a



copy of this Order onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public asking for a copy. Questions or comments regarding this Order may be directed to Contra Costa Health Services at (844) 729-8410.

11. Severability. If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

IT IS SO ORDERED:



Chris Farnitano, M.D.
Health Officer of the County of Contra Costa

Dated: September 16, 2020

Attachment:
COVID-19 Lab Results CSV File Format

