



**Indiana**  
**Department**  
**of**  
**Health**

# REPORTING GUIDANCE – COVID LABORATORY RESULTS

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# Overview: COVID Reporting Requirements

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- CDC requires every COVID-19 testing site to report every diagnostic and screening test performed to detect SARS-CoV-2 or to diagnose a possible case of COVID-19 (e.g., molecular, antigen, antibody) to the appropriate state or local public health department, based on the individual's residence.
- All testing sites must report diagnostics and screening tests within 24 hours of test completion to the appropriate state or local public health department.
- Guidance from Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released new data elements that should be reported for all COVID laboratory testing reports sent to the appropriate state or local public health department. The new guidance requires facilities and ordering providers to gather more complete patient demographic information. Please note: the required data elements have changed since original guidance was published. Please read Technical Guidance for changes in data requirements
  - CDC COVID Reporting Guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/reporting-lab-data.html#how-to-report>
  - Technical Guidance for ELR Submission for New Data Element Requirements: <https://confluence.hl7.org/display/OO/proposed+HHS+ELR+Submission+Guidance+using+HL7+v2+messages>

# COVID Laboratory Data Reporting

## Complete Lab Data *Must* Include:

Test Ordered  
Device Identifier  
Test Result  
Test Result Date  
Accession # / Specimen ID  
Patient Age  
Patient Race  
Patient Ethnicity  
Patient Sex  
Patient Residence ZIP Code  
Patient Residence County  
Ordering Provider Name and NPI  
Ordering provider ZIP  
Performing Facility Name and CLIA number  
Performing Facility ZIP Code  
Specimen Source  
Date Test Ordered  
Date Specimen Collected

## Complete Lab Data *Must* Include for the State of Indiana:

- Patient First Name
- Patient Middle Name
- Patient Last Name
- Patient Phone Number with Area Code
- Patient DOB
- Ordering Provider Address
- Ordering Provider Phone Number

## HHS “Ask on Entry” Data *Should* Include:

- First Test Y/N/U
- Employed in healthcare Y/N/U
- Symptomatic as defined by CDC? Y/N/U
- If yes, then Date of Symptom Onset mm/dd/yy
- Hospitalized? Y/N/U
- ICU? Y/N/U
- Resident in a congregate care setting (including nursing homes, residential care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, psychiatric treatment facilities, group homes, board and care homes, homeless shelter, foster care or other setting) (Y/N/U)
- Pregnant? Y/N/U



*\*Subject to Change*

*Please see Technical Guidance:*

<https://confluence.hl7.org/display/OO/proposed+HHS+ELR+Submission+Guidance+using+HL7+v2+messages>

# Reporting Options for COVID-19 Results

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- Three methods in which testing sites can submit COVID-19 lab results to Indiana Department of Health
  - 1. Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR)** – automated messaging of lab reports sent using one or more electronic mechanisms. ELR improves the quality of laboratory results received by public health. Indiana Department of Health offers **two methods of ELR onboarding**.
  - 2. REDCap “COVID-19 Point-of-Care Test Reporting – Indiana Department of Health” manual entry form** – User access designated to testing sites with **Point-of-Care testing (POC)**
  - 3. Fax** complete laboratory reports to 317-234-2812
- Indiana Department of Health has been working with testing sites to determine the best method for your facility to report all COVID-19 lab results. It is our goal to provide your testing site with a secure means for efficient reporting.

# COVID Lab Reporting: Facility Infrastructure

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Consider the infrastructure of your testing site(s)

**1. What types of tests tools are used to perform COVID-19 test?**

- Send out/Panel
- Point of Care (POC)
- Other

**2. How is reporting currently being done?**

- Are the results faxed to Indiana Department of Health?
- Are they submitted directly in NBS application?
- Is there an existing electronic reporting feed with our electronic health records vendor?
- Are we a Long-term care or nursing home facility?
- Do we provide inpatient/outpatient testing?
- Is another facility/laboratory submitting this data on our behalf?

**3. What is the volume or anticipated volume?**

**4. Who are the partners in which testing is provided?**

- This can include LTC facilities, hospitals, school/universities, and other labs

**5. Does our IT system support electronic laboratory reporting?**

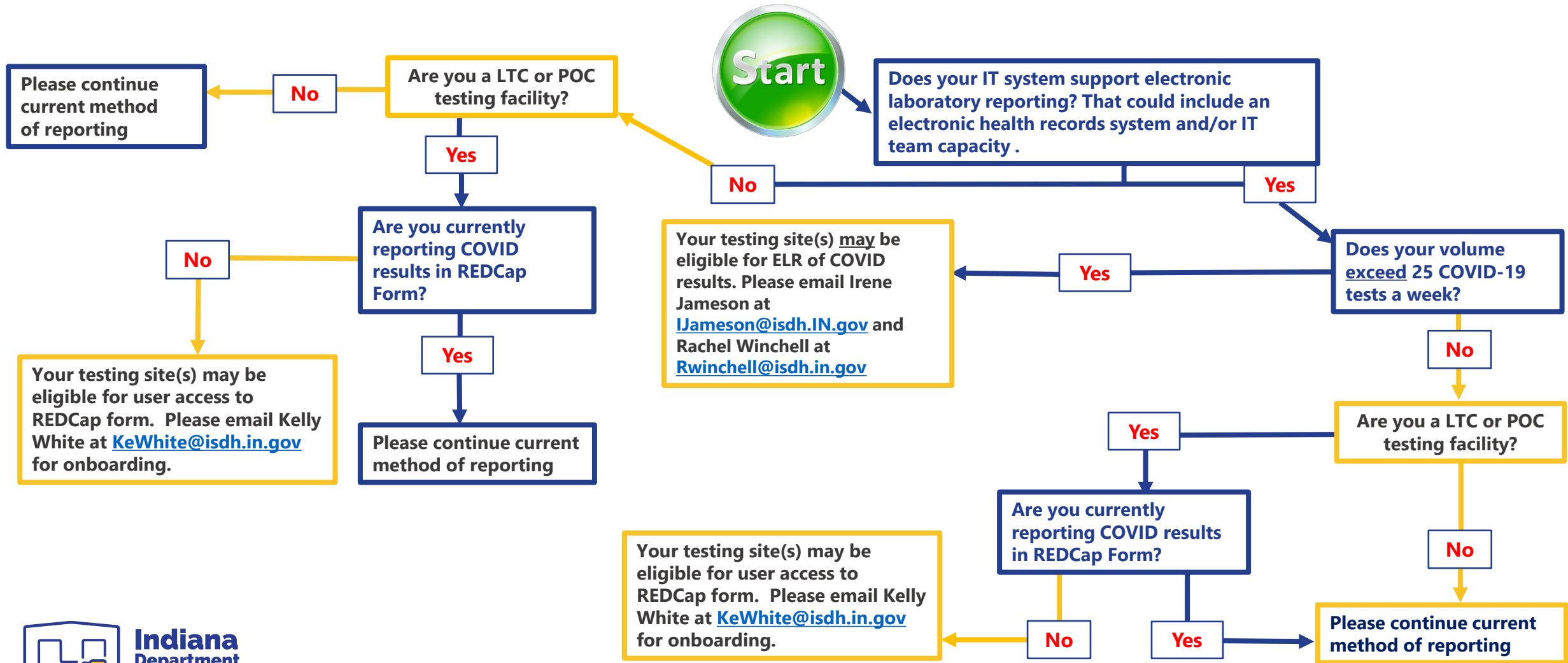
- CSV flat file vs HL7 integration



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Please follow the "COVID Lab Reporting Methods" Flowchart for reporting guidance

# COVID Lab Reporting Methods



# Electronic Laboratory Reporting: Two Options

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## Comma-separated value (CSV) Implementation

- Pipe-delimited flat file format
- Contains minimum reporting data field requirements. \***Excludes** AOE data fields
- Simple, quick format
- Submitted via SFTP
- Improves timeliness, accuracy, consistency, and completeness of lab and clinical data

## Health Level 7 (HL7) Implementation

- IDOH "Gold standard" preferred method
- For larger lab facilities
- Contains all reporting data field requirements including HHS/CDC
- **Requires mapping of LOINC/SNOMED coding systems prior to HL7 implementation**
- Submitted via SFTP
- Improves timeliness, accuracy, consistency, and completeness of lab and clinical data

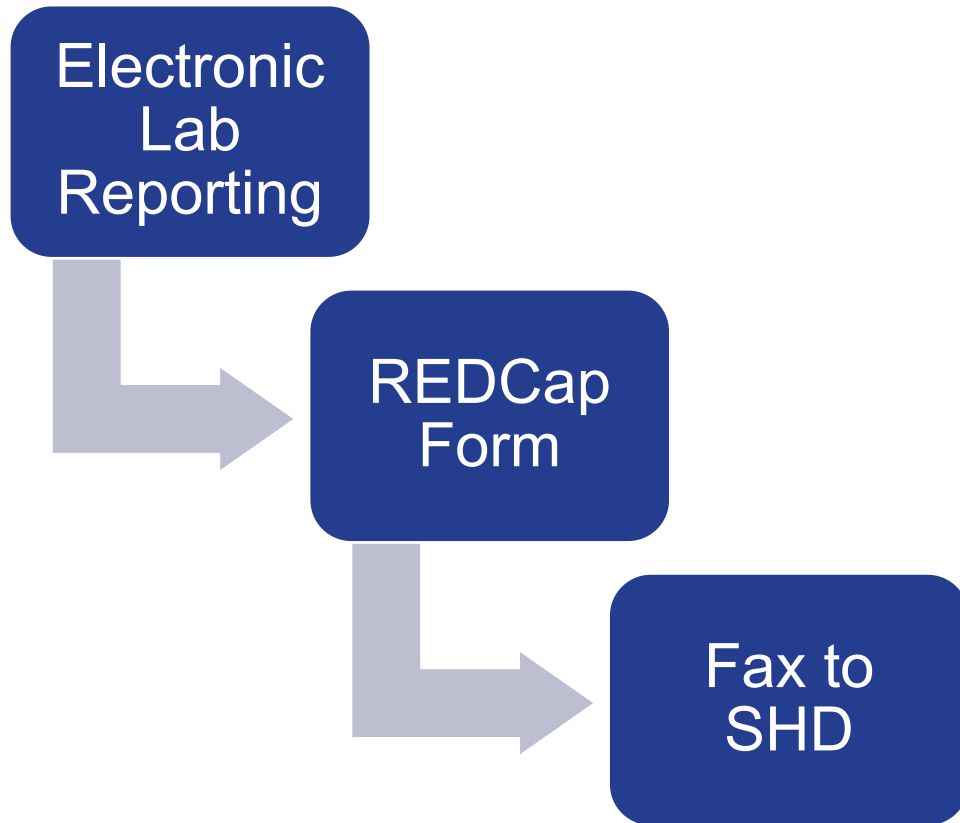
# Electronic Laboratory Reporting: Implementation Process

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- **Prior** to establishing electronic lab reporting, please contact Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) and coordinate electronic file transfer efforts to ensure that complete lab data fields are tested and successfully submitted into our national surveillance system
- Until the ELR process is complete, please **fax only positive Indiana COVID19** lab test results to Indiana Department of Health at 317-234-2812.
- Confirm that all required data elements listed in the “**COVID Laboratory Data Reporting**” section are included in the lab reports
- Once successfully onboarded to submit COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) results electronically to IDOH, it will be required that all onboarded labs work with IDOH to report timely, rectify any data quality issues, and modify any data field requirements in **accordance with state/federal guidelines**.



# Wrap Up



- **ELR implementation** is ideal method of reporting COVID19 results, which is vital in our public health surveillance and preparedness efforts.
- ***COVID-19 Point-of-Care Test Reporting – Indiana Department of Health REDCap form*** allows all sites using point-of-care testing to easily report all results to IDOH and will ensure results are included in surveillance data.
- Facilities already reporting point-of-care testing results through electronic laboratory feeds do not need to report via the ***COVID-19 Point of Care Test Reporting - Indiana Department of Health REDCap form***.

# Questions?

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Have you have reviewed the COVID Lab Reporting Method flowchart and still unsure best method of reporting?

Please email **Kelly White** at [KeWhite@isdh.in.gov](mailto:KeWhite@isdh.in.gov), **Irene Jameson** at [Jameson@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:Jameson@isdh.IN.gov) or **Rachel Winchell** at [RWinchell@isdh.in.gov](mailto:RWinchell@isdh.in.gov) and we will assist you in determining the best method of reporting COVID-19 lab results.

