

## **STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER'S ORDER**

### **Requirements for Reporting COVID-19 Information to the State Department of Health**

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020, Governor Eric J. Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-02, which declared that a public health emergency exists throughout the State of Indiana as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”);

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to be a global pandemic and, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency with respect to this dangerous virus;

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, Governor Eric J. Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-08, which directed the residents of Indiana to stay at home unless leaving for essential activities. He updated this direction on April 6, 2020 in Executive Order 20-18.

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can be spread from person to person. COVID-19 is thought to be spread mainly between people who are in close contact and prolonged contact with one another (about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced by an infected individual. COVID-19 may also be spread by touching a surface object that has virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or eyes. COVID-19 seems to be spreading easily and sustainably in the community.

WHEREAS, the Indiana State Department of Health requires information concerning COVID-19 to be reported by healthcare providers as soon as possible to provide timely intervention and direction to the State’s response to the public health emergency.

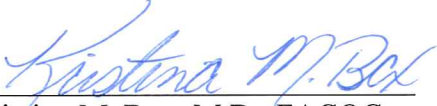
WHEREAS, under the authority granted to the Indiana State Department of Health in Ind. Code 16-19-3-9 to “do what is reasonable and necessary for the prevention and suppression of disease”; Ind. Code 16-41-2-1 requiring the reporting of communicable disease information; and Executive Order 20-02, healthcare providers and local officials are required to cooperate with the Indiana State Department of Health in its response to a declared public health emergency.


THEREFORE, I, Kristina Box, MD, FACOG, State Health Commissioner, do hereby order that effective April 10, 2020:

1. All laboratories performing COVID-19 testing for residents of Indiana shall report all negative COVID-19 test results, in addition to the positive results already required to be reported, to the Indiana State Department of Health (“ISDH”) in a manner prescribed by ISDH, within twenty-four (24) hours of completing the test.

2. All long-term care facilities, jails, prisons, or other congregate housing facilities are required to report positive COVID-19 test results for all patients, residents, offenders, and employees, within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of positive result.
3. All long-term care facilities, jails, prisons, or other congregate housing facilities are required to report any COVID-19 related deaths or suspected COVID-19 related deaths of patients, residents, offenders, and employees to ISDH within twenty-four (24) hours of the facilities' knowledge of the death in a manner prescribed by ISDH.

SO ORDERED.

  
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Kristina M. Box, M.D., FACOG  
*State Health Commissioner*  
Indiana State Department of Health

  
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Date