



The Michigan Association of Preventive Medicine and Public Health Physicians

March 31, 2020

Memorandum: Reporting COVID-19 to Public Health

Dear Healthcare Partners and Physician Colleagues,

We are on the frontlines of our public health system and COVID-19 pandemic response. We are all working to best care for our patients and communities while also protecting ourselves and healthcare workforce. In this extraordinary time, I am writing to ask for your additional diligence in reporting COVID-19 to Public Health.

An [emergency order](#) issued by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) on COVID-19 mandates the following:

- All laboratory tests conducted for COVID-19 must be reported to MDHHS via the Michigan Disease Surveillance System within four hours of completion of the test, whether negative or positive.
- COVID-19 related deaths should be reported to the local health department (and thus local health officer) by county of residence of the decedent within two hours of death.

Contact your local health departments [here](#) to establish preferred reporting mechanisms; some have dedicated COVID-19 clinician reporting phone numbers, fax, or email.

As a reminder, all physicians are required by Michigan law to report certain communicable diseases to Public Health, including COVID-19. Physicians or an authorized delegate, such as an infection preventionist, should notify local public health departments of all suspect or confirmed COVID-19 cases. Physicians should not assume an electronic laboratory report has notified Public Health, particularly as hospital and commercial testing becomes more widely available. Physicians should also report large occurrences of illness, even prior to laboratory results, as such observations can inform critical public health decisions.

Thank you for your attention to disease reporting and your commitment to healing.

Yours in Health,

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