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February 3, 2022 Time 1700 (5:00 PM EDT)
NH-HAN 20220203



COVID-19 Pandemic, Update # 55 *Changes to COVID-19 Reporting and Surveillance*

Key Points and Recommendations:

- Due to the increasing use of at-home COVID-19 tests and increased burden on providers of reporting individual infections during this Omicron surge, the NH Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) will track COVID-19 case incidence based on reports from 1) automated electronic laboratory test reporting; and 2) provider-collected point-of-care (POC) tests.
 - Providers, schools, childcare programs, etc. should stop reporting individual at-home tests (except when including persons with COVID-19 in a school's weekly aggregate report, as discussed below).
 - Providers and testing locations that hold a CLIA certificate are still required to report all COVID-19 test results (both positive and negative) under [CLIA regulations](#) and the federal [CARES Act](#).
 - Provider-collected POC SARS-CoV-2 tests (e.g., antigen tests) should be reported as outlined in the NH DPHS [COVID-19 Rapid/POC Test Reporting Guidance](#).
- Clinical details for new COVID-19-related hospitalizations and deaths should still be reported to DPHS using the [COVID-19 Case Report Form](#).
- K-12 schools and colleges/universities should report weekly aggregate numbers of SARS-CoV-2 infections in students and staff instead of reporting individual cases.
 - In addition to weekly aggregate reporting, schools that conduct their own COVID-19 testing under a CLIA certificate are still required to report all test results under the above provider reporting guidance.
 - Review NH's guidance for [Responding to COVID-19 in K-12 Schools and Child Care Facilities](#).
 - An online weekly aggregate COVID-19 reporting form for K-12 schools and colleges/universities will be active ([check website for link](#)) in the next few days for submissions starting Friday, February 11th (i.e., at the end of each school week, report the aggregate cases that were identified during the 7 days prior).
 - Questions about the new school weekly reporting should be directed to: 603-271-4496.
- Reporting of all COVID-19 clusters/outbreaks is no longer routinely necessary for most businesses and organizations. However, NH DPHS remains available to provide assessment and guidance for facilities requesting assistance during an outbreak. Assistance can be obtained by contacting NH DPHS at 603-271-4496.
- Healthcare facilities, long-term care facilities (LTCFs), and other high-risk residential facilities (e.g., jails/prisons, homeless shelters, etc.) should continue to report outbreaks (i.e., multiple cases with evidence of in-facility transmission), or if there is concern for an outbreak and additional assistance is needed to investigate.
 - Refer to CDC's updated [Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel](#).
 - Refer to CDC's updated [Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for LTCFs](#).

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- NH DPHS conducts **Healthcare Provider and Public Health Partner** webinars the **2nd and 4th Thursday** of each month from 12:00 – 1:00 pm (next call will occur on Thursday, February 10th):
 - Zoom link: <https://nh-dhhs.zoom.us/j/94059287404>
 - Call-in phone number: (646) 558-8656
 - Meeting ID: 940 5928 7404
 - Password: 353809

 - NH DPHS conducts **School and Childcare Partner** webinars the **1st and 3rd Wednesday** of each month from 3:30 – 4:30 pm. **Because of school vacations, the 2/16 and 3/12 webinars are cancelled, but an interim webinar has been scheduled for Wednesday 2/23 from 3:30 – 4:30 pm. The regular schedule will resume starting 3/16.**
 - Zoom link: <https://nh-dhhs.zoom.us/j/98062195081>
 - Webinar ID: 980 6219 5081
 - Telephone: 646-558-8656
 - Passcode: 197445

- For any questions regarding this notification, please call the NH DHHS, DPHS, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at (603) 271-4496 during business hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.).
- If you are calling after hours or on the weekend, please call the New Hampshire Hospital switchboard at (603) 271-5300 and request the Public Health Professional on-call.
- To change your contact information in the NH Health Alert Network, please send an email to DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov.

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From: Benjamin P. Chan, MD, MPH; State Epidemiologist
Originating Agency: NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services