



Public Health Update

Capturing and Reporting Race/Ethnicity, Sex/Gender for COVID-19 Cases

June 11, 2020

Summary

Accurately capturing the demographic characteristics of COVID-19 cases helps the Health District to understand the burden of infection among vulnerable groups and ensures equitable access to testing. An important way that Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) captures this information is through morbidity reporting from medical providers as well as electronic laboratory reporting. Healthcare providers should include demographic data for all samples submitted to laboratories for COVID-19 testing.

Background

Incomplete or missing demographic data is an obstacle to understanding the impact of COVID-19 in Southern Nevada. All medical providers are required to report positive COVID-19 test results to SNHD including race and ethnicity of the case as indicated on the morbidity report form. In addition to medical provider reporting, as of August 1, 2020, all laboratories will be required to include detailed demographic data when they report the results of coronavirus tests to the federal government, including the age, sex, race and ethnicity of the person tested (CARES Act Section 18115:

<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/covid-19-laboratory-data-reporting-guidance.pdf>). Healthcare providers can assist with this requirement by obtaining all required demographic data for all samples submitted to laboratories for COVID-19 testing. These requirements will help to improve crucial information needed to monitor and fight the pandemic nationally.

NAC 441A.280 Duty of persons to cooperate with health authority during investigations and carrying out of measures for prevention, suppression and control of communicable diseases.

A case, suspected case, carrier, contact or other person shall upon request by a health authority, promptly cooperate during:

1. An investigation of the circumstances or cause of a case, suspected, outbreak or suspected outbreak.
2. The carrying out of measures for the prevention, suppression and control of a communicable disease, including procedures of exclusion, isolation and quarantine.
(added to NAC by Bd. of Health, effective 1-24-1992).

Recommendations

Data should be sent to state or local public health departments using existing reporting channels (in accordance with state law or policies) to ensure rapid initiation of case investigations by those departments, concurrent to laboratory results being shared with an ordering provider, or patient as applicable.

Required Data Elements

The following data elements must be collected and reported for SARS-CoV-2 laboratory tests, for the transmission of complete laboratory testing data to the CDC or the Secretary's designee. (Note: additional data elements may be requested at a future date.)

1. Test ordered – use harmonized LOINC codes provided by CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/csels/dls/sars-cov-2-livd-codes.html>)
2. Device Identifier
3. Test result – use appropriate LOINC and SNOMED codes, as defined by the Laboratory In Vitro Diagnostics (LIVD) Test Code Mapping for SARS-CoV-2 Tests provided by CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/csels/dls/sars-cov-2-livd-codes.html>)
4. Test Result date (date format)

5. Accession #/Specimen ID
6. Patient name (Last name, First name, Middle Initial)
7. Patient street address
8. Patient phone number with area code
9. Patient date of birth
10. Patient age
11. Patient race
12. Patient ethnicity
13. Patient sex
14. Patient residence zip code
15. Patient residence county
16. Ordering provider name and NPI (as applicable)
17. Ordering provider address and zip
18. Ordering provider phone number
19. Performing facility name and/or CLIA number, if known
20. Performing facility zip code
21. Specimen Source - use appropriate LOINC, SNOMED-CT, or SPM4 codes, or equivalently detailed alternative codes
22. Date test ordered (date format)
23. Date specimen collected (date format)

How to Report

Providers can report positive cases to SNHD OEDS via the following methods:

1. Fax the State of Nevada Confidential Morbidity Report Form (<https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/download/epi/nv-morbidity-form.pdf>) along with laboratory results to 702-759-1414
2. Report via the SNHD online physician reporting: <https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/news-info/reportable-diseases/reportable-diseases-form/>
3. Contact SNHD OEDS at 702-759-1300

Resources

npr knpr news 88.9: Race, Ethnicity Data To Be Required With Coronavirus Tests In U.S. (<https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/06/04/869815033/race-ethnicity-data-to-be-required-with-coronavirus-tests-in-u-s>)

COVID-19 Pandemic Response, Laboratory Data Reporting: CARES Act Section 18115 (<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/covid-19-laboratory-data-reporting-guidance.pdf>)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Press Release, June 4, 2020: HHS Announces New Laboratory Data Reporting Guidance for COVID-19 Testing (<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/p0604-new-lab-data-reporting.html>)



Fermin Leguen, MD
Acting Chief Health Officer
Southern Nevada Health District

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action

280 S Decatur Blvd. P.O. Box 3902, Las Vegas, NV 89127 • phone (702) 759-1000 • <https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org>