

Commercial Laboratory Response to COVID-19



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Association

- The American Clinical Laboratory Association (ACLA) and our members have been fully engaged around-the-clock to increase testing capacity for COVID-19.
- ACLA members have processed **nearly 2 million tests** to date to meet unprecedented demand.
- Diverse subset of the commercial laboratory industry currently offering COVID-19 tests include: ARUP, BioReference, LabCorp, Mayo Clinic, Quest Diagnostics, Sonic Healthcare and Exact Sciences.
- ACLA member labs are committed to reporting COVID-19 test results to state health departments as required by law to inform public health response.
- Unfortunately, overlapping and duplicative data reporting mandates from all levels of government have created challenges for labs already under strain as they work around the clock performing COVID-19 testing.

1. Multiple overlapping mandates for results reporting

- ACLA member labs are complying with state and federal laws regarding results reporting to health departments and HHS.
- Commercial labs are receiving additional reporting mandates from various entities including: state health information exchanges, governors' offices, Medicaid plans, and government contractors.
- Each additional data request takes away critical resources from laboratory response, and can lead to overlapping and duplicative data on the federal and state levels.

2. Incomplete patient demographic information collected by ordering providers

- Labs do not typically interface with patients and can only report patient information collected by ordering providers.
- Missing or incomplete demographic information collected by ordering providers can hinder public health response.

3. Lack of funding to support lab reporting mandates

- Data reporting mandates come at a cost both to labs and patient care by taking resources away from expanding testing capacity.
- Administrative and congressional action to date have included no designated funding for labs to support expanded COVID-19 testing or the growing administrative burden of data reporting.

Streamlined Public Health Reporting is Critical to the COVID-19 Response



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HHS can take critical steps to address Health IT challenges in the COVID-19 response by:

- 1. Streamlining laboratory reporting requirements** on the local, state, and federal levels so that commercial labs can report COVID-19 test results in one standardized format.
- 2. Educating ordering providers** on the importance of collecting accurate and complete patient information, including demographics, when a test is ordered.
- 3. Investing resources in modernization of Health IT systems** to promote interoperability without placing an additional burden on laboratories that are already stretched for resources in the COVID-19 response.