This is an official Oklahoma Health Alert Network Health Notification

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COVID Testing Requirement Changes — for Long Term Care Facilities

Following passage of the CARES Act, The US Department of Health and Human Services made mandatory the reporting of all testing related to COVID-19 through one of several approved electronic submission methods. (See guidance at: https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/covid-19-laboratory-data-reporting-guidance.pdf) To achieve compliance with this mandate, the OSDH has collaborated with system designers at SpringML, a Google company, to create a reporting system for all testing of Oklahoma citizens for COVID-19. The system is nearly complete and will be launched by the end of October.

Concurrent to this process, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services issued guidance that all nursing homes will be required to report COVID-19 testing to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). The OSDH is aware that the NHSN reporting program is under construction and will be launched in the near future. The NHSN system will permit sharing of data with state health departments, and will conform to HL7 formats. As such, once the NHSN reporting system is functional, Oklahoma nursing homes may be able to report only to the NHSN system and meet both federal reporting requirements. However, if the NHSN system is NOT functional by mid-October, the OSDH will require nursing homes to undergo training for using SpringML for reporting COVID-19 testing results. Completion of this training and transition to mandatory reporting on Spring ML or NHSN must occur by the end of October.

Current intentions within the OSDH are to proceed with training of non-nursing home test providers beginning immediately, and delay training of nursing homes until additional information becomes available regarding the NHSN system. As such, no specific action is required of nursing homes at this time; this HAN is for your awareness and planning purposes only. Nursing homes will receive further guidance regarding this transition *no later than Friday October 14th*.

Regardless of which direction becomes necessary, nursing homes will be required to transition to online reporting of COVID-19 testing results in the very near future. Please identify appropriate IT personnel who will be involved in transitioning to this new reporting method, and be ready for action by mid-October.

We thank you for all you've done thus far in combatting COVID-19, and for your cooperation in this transition. After completing these two tasks, each facility will be provided access to online introduction to the chosen reporting method; provided a template for their chosen file format; and assigned to a training period for reporting personnel. To ensure adequate opportunity for training and data verification before the mandatory transition, it is essential that prompt attention be paid to all requests from OSDH regarding this matter. Responses on OID and preferred file format MUST be done *BEFORE 5:00 PM CDT on Monday October 5th*.

If you have any questions, please plan to attend one of the virtual help sessions. We look forward to working with you to make this a smooth, successful transition and continue our fight against COVID-19.

This message has been distributed to Long Term Care Facilities

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) Acute Disease Service (ADS) is now using 4 types of documents to provide important information to medical and public health professionals, and to other interested persons:

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert

Provides vital, time-sensitive information for a specific incident or situation; warrants immediate action or attention by health officials, laboratorians, clinicians, and members of the public and conveys the highest level of importance.

Health Advisory

Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; contains recommendations or actionable items to be performed by public health officials, laboratorians, and/or clinicians; may not require immediate action.

Health Update

Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate attention.

Health Info/Event

Provides general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.