Department of Public Health
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Division of Disease Control

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Health Advisory
Ongoing COVID-19 Surveillance and Reporting in Philadelphia
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SUMMARY POINTS
• In Philadelphia, COVID-19 remains a reportable disease by law and reporting should continue as described below.
• PDPH will continue to monitor COVID-19 activity indicators with a focus on severe disease and activity among vulnerable populations.

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) is issuing an advisory to review ongoing COVID-19 surveillance efforts and reporting requirements following the end of the federal public health emergency. In Philadelphia, COVID-19 remains a reportable disease by law and reporting should continue as with other reportable, communicable diseases.

In addition to monitoring wastewater testing, variants, and hospital emergency department chief complaint trends, PDPH will continue to monitor the following COVID-19 activity indicators with a focus on severe disease and activity among vulnerable populations based on reporting from healthcare providers, laboratories, and community partners.

SARS-CoV-2 Laboratory Test Results:
- Laboratories should continue to report positive SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) results to PDPH through electronic laboratory reporting or other established reporting method (i.e., submission through the Pennsylvania Department of Health's [PADOH] PA-NEDSS).
- Healthcare facilities and congregate living sites (skilled nursing facilities [SNF], assisted living/personal care homes, intermediate care facilities, behavioral health facilities, confinement facilities, shelters, supportive or transitional housing, alcohol and drug rehabilitation centers, and recovery homes) should continue to report positive SARS-CoV-2 rapid, point-of-care test results through established reporting methods.

Severe COVID-19 Disease:
- ***Hospitalized patients*** with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 infection (including rapid tests) should be reported electronically to PDPH. Alternatively, hospitals may complete the PDPH Severe Respiratory Virus Case Report Form for each hospitalized patient and fax to 215-238-6947. Individual-level hospitalized case reporting allows PDPH to monitor which Philadelphia residents are most impacted by severe COVID-19. Note that this reporting system is separate from federally mandated, aggregate hospital capacity reporting.
- ***Fatal cases*** of COVID-19 should be reported as part of PDPH severe disease surveillance and through the PADOH Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries' Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS).
- ***Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) and Adults (MIS-A)*** are reportable conditions in Philadelphia. Healthcare providers should fax a completed MIS-C case report form or medical record notes for patients with suspected MIS-C or MIS-A to 215-238-6947.
- **Pregnancy and infant outcomes** for persons with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 while pregnant are being monitored by the PDPH Division of Maternal, Child, and Family Health in coordination with delivery hospitals.

Outbreaks in Settings of Concern:

- ***Congregate living facilities*** including SNFs, assisted living/personal care homes, intermediate care facilities, behavioral health facilities, confinement facilities, shelters, supportive or transitional housing, alcohol and drug rehabilitation centers, and recovery homes should continue to notify PDPH when 1 or more residents or staff test positive for COVID-19 through the facility's assigned COVID-19 Outbreak Coordinator or emailing COVID-GroupSettings@phila.gov.
- ***Schools (Pre-Kindergarten through 12th Grade) and Early Childhood Education providers*** should report COVID-19 outbreaks of 5 or more cases within a defined group with symptom onset within 7 days of each other (or 20% of a defined group), whichever is lower and fatal cases among attendees and staff to the PDPH COVID-19 Pediatric Partnership Team.
- ***Inpatient and outpatient healthcare facilities*** should report healthcare COVID-19 outbreaks to PDPH at COVID-GroupSettings@phila.gov as outlined in PADOH advisory 2023-PAH-701-06-06-ADV on outbreak recognition and reporting, including outbreak definitions.

Vaccination: Healthcare providers are mandated to report all immunizations including COVID-19 vaccine doses administered to all individuals of all ages in the City of Philadelphia to PhilaVax, the City-wide immunization information system.

Federal Reporting Requirements: In addition to local reporting activities, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)-certified healthcare facilities should continue participation in federally mandated surveillance systems including hospital utilization data reporting through PADOH's Juvare EMResource and direct reporting of COVID-19 vaccination data to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). CMS-certified SNFs are required to report to the LTCF COVID-19 Module Surveillance Pathways (Resident Impact and Facility Capacity, Staff and Personnel Impact, and Therapeutics) on a weekly basis.

Additional information on COVID-19 surveillance and reporting is available from recent PADOH advisories: 2023-PAHAN-700-06-06-ADV and 2023-PAHAN-701-06-06-ADV. In Pennsylvania, COVID-19 also remains a reportable disease in Montgomery and Allegheny counties with voluntary reporting to PADOH in counties outside those where COVID-19 is reportable.

Facilities with questions about COVID-19 reporting methods can call PDPH at 215-685-6741.

COVID-19 Surveillance Resources
- **PDPH COVID-19 Dashboard:** https://www.phila.gov/programs/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/testing/testing-data/ (updated monthly)
- **CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker:** https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home. This dashboard now features data on COVID-19 hospitalizations, deaths, emergency department visits, and when available testing positivity by geographic area.