



Iowa Health Care Association  
Iowa Center for Assisted Living  
Iowa Center for Home Care

## Public Health Reporting Obligations for Facilities with Suspected/Positive COVID-19 Case (updated 3/13/20)

While the bulk of this document addresses your obligations under state law to report a positive test for COVID-19 please note that IDPH has directed facilities to report possible outbreaks as described under the reporting for possible outbreak section.

### REPORTING FOR SUSPECTED OUTBREAK

Report possible outbreaks of respiratory illness (when two or more residents or staff report fever and respiratory illness) to IDPH by calling 800-362-2736 during business hours and 515-323-4360 after hours (this will connect you to State Patrol Dispatch, who will page the on-call epidemiologist).

State Law requires health care facilities affirmatively report certain communicable and infectious diseases under the Communicable and Infectious Disease Reporting and Control Act (see IA Code 139A and Regs 641-1.3). On March 5, 2020, the Iowa Department of Public Health issued a new order relating to COVID-19 which adds COVID-19 to the list of reportable diseases under the act until December 31, 2020.

### If your facility is notified of a positive laboratory test of COVID-19:

1. You must **immediately** report the test via **phone to IDPH at 1-800-362-2736 (during business hours)**. **After hours, call 515-323-4360 (this will take you to the State Patrol dispatch who will notify the state epidemiologist.)**
  - This needs to occur prior to patient/resident notification.
  - There should be no delay in reporting overnight.
  - This must occur for EACH case if there are multiple cases
2. Be prepared to report the following information about the Resident(s) who tested positive:
  - Name
  - Address and phone number (presumably facility but be prepared with new address and number if resident has been transferred or discharged prior to your notice of the testing)
  - Date of Birth
  - Sex
  - Race and Ethnicity, Marital Status

- Name and Address of Laboratory that did the testing
  - Date test found to be positive AND collection date
  - Stage of disease process
  - Clinical Status
  - The treatment provided for the disease (if any)
  - All household and known contacts
  - Whether, to your knowledge, the household or other known contacts have been examined and the results of those examinations
3. This information should also be reported to the local health department (if it occurs within the jurisdiction of that local health department)
    - If you do not know who to contact visit the IHCA's coronavirus webpage resources for the local health department contact.
  4. The Department of Inspections and Appeals has requested that providers also notify them of a positive test through the complaint incident hotline.
  5. If there is a death in your facility as a result of COVID-19, you must place with the body a written notice specifying either "known contagious or infectious disease" or "suspected contagious or infectious disease".
    - This is to allow those handling the body to take appropriate measures.
  6. Be aware that you will likely be asked to and are required by law to assist in any disease investigation by IDPH and local health officials.