

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY RULE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Division of Disease Control

RULE NO.: RULE TITLE:

64DER20-18 Diseases or Conditions to be Reported

SPECIFIC REASONS FOR FINDING AN IMMEDIATE DANGER TO THE PUBLIC, HEALTH, SAFETY OR WELFARE: Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and presents with symptoms similar to those of influenza. COVID-19 is a communicable disease with significant morbidity and mortality and presents a severe danger to public health. The World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. On March 1, 2020, a Public Health Emergency was declared by the Surgeon General to exist statewide in accordance with Executive Order 20-51. On March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52 declaring that a state of emergency exists in the State of Florida. Therefore, there is an immediate need to adopt rules setting forth the procedures to control the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health, safety and welfare of Florida’s citizens.

REASONS FOR CONCLUDING THAT THE PROCEDURE USED IS FAIR UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES: COVID-19 presents a public health threat to the state of Florida. The Surgeon General has declared a statewide Public Health Emergency due to the spread of COVID-19. There is an immediate need to set forth procedures for the control of this communicable disease in the State of Florida.

SUMMARY OF THE RULE: Emergency rule 64DER20-18 (64D-3.029) requires immediate reporting of suspected or confirmed cases and both positive and negative test results by physicians, hospitals, and laboratories.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE EMERGENCY RULE IS: Carina Blackmore, Florida Department of Health, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1703, (850) 245-4732.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE EMERGENCY RULE IS:

**64DER20-18 (64D-3.029) Diseases or Conditions to be Reported.**

| Practitioner Reporting            |                     |             |                   | Laboratory Reporting   |   |            |                     |             |                   |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|--|---|------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Reportable Diseases or Conditions | Timeframes          |             |                   | Evidence of current or recent infection with etiological agents and all associated testing results performed should be reported (e.g. species, serogroup, serotype, and antimicrobial susceptibility *2 results) | Submit isolates or specimens for confirmation*1 | Timeframes |                     |             |                   |
|                                   | Suspect Immediately | Immediately | Next Business Day |  |   | Other      | Suspect Immediately | Immediately | Next Business Day |
| Coronavirus (COVID-19)*23         |                     | X           |                   | Coronavirus (COVID-19)*23  |   |            | X                   |             |                   |

\*23– Special reporting requirements for COVID-19: Results should be reported and accompanied by any testing conducted (positive and negative results). For laboratories performing electronic laboratory reporting as described in subsection 64D-3.031(5), F.A.C., all test results (positive and negative) are to be submitted, including screening test results (positive and negative).

THIS RULE TAKES EFFECT UPON BEING FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE UNLESS A LATER TIME AND DATE IS SPECIFIED IN THE RULE.