Update on Hospital Reporting of COVID-19 Laboratory Results to the Florida Department of Health

April 13, 2020

Background:

- Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) is the electronic transmission of laboratory results from laboratories and hospitals to public health officials to identify reportable diseases and conditions through an automated and secure process.
- ELR is an essential tool in outbreak responses. Outbreaks can be identified and managed more effectively with ELR. ELR reduces the need to manually enter faxed laboratory results into public health information systems which expedites the process between identifying a reportable disease or condition and the public health response.
- COVID-19 positive patients and COVID-19 laboratory results are required to be reported to the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) under Section 381.0031, Florida Statutes and Emergency Rule No. 64DER20-26, Florida Administrative Code.

Guidance:

- Pursuant to Emergency Rule No. 64DER20-26, Florida Administrative Code, COVID-19 laboratory results (positive and negative) should be reported via ELR, including screening tests (positive and negative).
- If your hospital is conducting in-house COVID-19 testing and does not have an ELR feed established with FDOH, please begin the enrollment process by contacting the FDOH ELR program at the following email address: DLElectronicLabReporting@flhealth.gov.
- If your hospital is unable to submit COVID-19 results electronically, please continue to fax a copy of the positive laboratory result to the following FDOH Epidemiology confidential fax line: 850-414-6894.
- Once your hospital has been enrolled and is in production with ELR, it is no longer necessary to fax paper COVID-19 laboratory results to FDOH.