



# Health Alert



City of Chicago  
Lori E. Lightfoot, Mayor

[www.chicagohan.org](http://www.chicagohan.org)

Chicago Department of Public Health  
Allison Arwady MD MPH, Commissioner

## Reporting COVID-19 Cases and Clusters and Notification of Potentially Exposed Patients

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### Summary:

- Individual lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases and clusters are reportable to Chicago Department of Public Health
- Cases and clusters should be reported through Illinois National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (INEDSS)
- For those not able to report through INEDSS, cases and clusters may be reported here: [COVID-19 Online Case Report Form](#) (confidential online survey powered by REDCap)
- Cases in healthcare personnel (HCP) should trigger follow-up action by their employer including notification of persons with whom HCP worked.
- Any patient or employee with close contact to the HCP while the HCP was symptomatic or within the 48 hours prior to symptom onset should be notified of potential exposure. Resources are available here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html>
- Toolkits for healthcare settings are accessible at <https://www.chicagohan.org/covid-19> in addition to specific pages for acute care facilities and long-term care facilities.

### Reporting COVID-19 cases and clusters to Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH):

Both individual lab-confirmed cases and clusters of COVID-19 are reportable and should be done promptly, during business hours. If not already in place, strategies to prevent transmission of COVID-19 should be implemented immediately.

Providers should report all COVID-19 positive cases into Illinois National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (INEDSS). If you are an outpatient facility and do not have access to INEDSS or you need to report a cluster of 2 or more suspect cases of COVID-19 among residents of congregate settings (such as a long-term care facility, childcare setting, correctional facility, homeless shelter, etc.) with onset < 7 days apart, please complete the [COVID-19 Online Case Report Form](#) (a confidential online survey powered by Illinois Department of Public Health [IDPH] REDCap).

### What facilities should do after identification of a case in healthcare personnel (HCP):

HCP should practice physical distancing (including telework practices if possible) and avoid coming to work if ANY symptoms of COVID-19 are present, even if minor. All HCP should be screened for symptoms at the beginning of their shift. If HCP develop symptoms, they should speak to their provider or employer to discuss testing for COVID-19.

IDPH laboratories will test HCP with suspect COVID-19 (Fever  $\geq 100.4$  F AND new onset respiratory symptoms not attributed to an underlying or previously recognized condition). COVID-19 testing is now available through commercial laboratories. In addition, IDPH testing is available for healthcare workers and employees in residential congregate settings through the IDPH laboratory. Pre-authorization is required for testing at IDPH laboratories and can be provided through the form at <https://is.gd/COVID19IDPHProviderTestRequest>.

If HCP are diagnosed with COVID-19, and they assessed patients in the 48 hours preceding symptom onset or while symptomatic, notification to these patients should be made. Even if HCP were wearing PPE, CDPH recommends notification with the caveat that risk of transmission is very low. Guidance may be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html>  
Asymptomatic exposed healthcare workers may continue to work.

See the Chicago HAN COVID-19 homepage <https://www.chicagohan.org/covid-19> for healthcare setting specific guidance including outpatient, long-term care, and acute care settings.