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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Licensed Clinical Laboratories Authorized to Conduct SARS-COV-2 Testing

FROM: Jared M. Maples
Director, New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness
Chair, New Jersey Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force

DATE: March 23, 2020

SUBJECT: Reporting COVID-19 Tests to the State of New Jersey

As testing for COVID-19 expands throughout New Jersey, it is imperative that the State receive timely and accurate COVID-19 test results to properly coordinate remediation actions and assess risks to delivery of essential health care services.

Pursuant to New Jersey's Domestic Security Preparedness Act, the New Jersey Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force may compel the production of information it deems necessary to perform its duties.[1] These duties include assessing risks to the delivery and availability of essential health care services.[2] In addition, the Emergency Health Powers Act[3] allows for the access of medical information of individuals who have participated in medical testing for, among other things, the purposes of investigating the causes of transmission related to the public health emergency.[4]

Therefore, the New Jersey Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force hereby directs that commercial laboratories operating in New Jersey report all COVID-19 test results to the New Jersey Department of Health beginning March 23, 2020. The results of all COVID-19 tests performed before this date shall be included in the initial report. Subsequently, results shall be sent daily and included results not previously reported. Information shall be transmitted no later than 8:00 p.m. each day through the Department of Health's CDRSS platform. Specific data reported shall include positive, negative, and inconclusive test results. This directive shall supplement, not supplant, any other existing reporting requirements.

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[1] N.J.S.A. App A:9-69(c).
[2] N.J.S.A. App.A:9-68.
[3] N.J.S.A. 26:13-1 et seq.
[4] N.J.S.A. 26:13-17

Information coupled with test result data that may be confidential in nature, including proprietary information but excluding the total number of tests and associated result for each, shall be deemed privileged and shall not be publicly disclosed by the State unless directly relating to the security, public safety, or well-being of the residents of New Jersey.

Questions pertaining to this directive may be sent to Assistant Commissioner Christopher Neuwirth via email at Christopher.Neuwirth@doh.nj.gov.