**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO.: 2020-03** **DATE: MARCH 27, 2020**

**SUBJECT: ORDER REGARDING NOTIFICATION OF EXPOSURE TO THE 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS USING THE DC HIE**

By virtue of the authority vested in me by Mayor's Order 2020-046, dated March 11, 2020, Mayor's Order 2020-050, dated March 20, 2020, Administrative Order No. 2020-01, dated March 13, 2020, and by the Public Emergency Amendment Act of 2002, D.C. Official Code § 7-2304.01(d), it is hereby **ORDERED**:

## I. PURPOSE

The Purpose of this Administrative Order is to set forth a directive on the notifications of exposure for the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and authorize notification of positive cases to District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services (FEMS) via the DC Health Information Exchange (DC HIE) in response to the public health emergency.

## II. FINDINGS AND ORDER

The Director of the Department of Health (Director), as the lead in the District's efforts in containment and mitigation of COVID-19, has determined that it is in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of District providers and others in the community to take the necessary steps to use the DC HIE to alert any positive cases of COVID-19 and to ensure increased protection and prevention of exposure to the virus. Timely reporting of this disease is likely to improve the surveillance and overall response to COVID-19. As of March 25, 2020, in addition to clinicians across the District, 86 members of FEMS have been exposed to COVID-19, resulting in the need to be quarantined, and significantly reducing the number of available responders and providers in the District.

In response, the Director makes the following findings:

a) The 2019 novel coronavirus is not on the list of notifiable diseases or conditions in the District. **Due to the public health emergency, it is the duty of every health care provider, knowing of, or in attendance on, a positive case or suspected case of COVID-19 to report to the DC Department of Health.**

b) Sending public health laboratory results to a health information exchange entity can improve completeness of information for public health surveillance of COVID-19 in the District.

c) FEMS providers are first in line for exposure to COVID-19 when interacting with a suspected patient needing emergency transport and or prehospital care. As a result of increased risk, notification is needed should they be exposed to a patient with positive lab results for COVID-19.

Based on the above findings, the Director makes the following Order:

a) **COVID-19 shall be included in the list of notifiable diseases or conditions in the District**: For the duration of the public health emergency caused by COVID-19 and to help prevent, control, and protect the spread of COVID-19 in the District, the Director orders that COVID-19 be added to the list of notifiable diseases or conditions. As required by law, all health care providers shall report certain diseases and conditions to DC Health pursuant to Chapter 22-B2 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations.

b) **All public health and commercial labs shall share data on notifiable diseases or conditions with the DC HIE and DC Health**: For the duration of the public health emergency, all public health laboratory results related to notifiable diseases or conditions should be sent to the DC HIE, and reported to DC Health, to increase the efficiency of public health surveillance of COVID-19. The timely reporting of positive COVID-19 laboratory data to the DC HIE will strengthen health system collaboration and ensure that immediate and timely action is taken during the public health emergency.

c) **The DC HIE shall be authorized to provide Notification of COVID-19 positive test results to FEMS providers**: Effective on the date of this Order and for the duration of the public health emergency caused by COVID-19, the emergency medical service clinicians, firefighters, and other persons shall receive the notice required by those in the event of their exposure to COVID-19.

## III. DURATION OF ORDER

This Order shall remain in effect during the period of Public Health Emergency as declared by the Mayor in Mayor's Order 2020-046, which was extended by Mayor's Order 2020-050, dated March 20, 2020, through April 24, 2020, unless earlier rescinded or superseded, and may be extended.

## IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Order shall become effective immediately.

LaQuandra S. Nesbitt

LaQuandra S. Nesbitt, MD, MPH
Director, District of Columbia
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