STATE OF WISCONSIN
Department of Health Services
Division of Public Health

1 West Wilson Street
PO Box 2659
Madison WI 53701-2659

Telephone: 608-266-1568
Fax: 608-261-6392
TTY: 888-701-1253

Date: February 18, 2021   DPH Numbered Memo BCD 2021-01

To: Wisconsin Employers

From: Ryan Westergaard, MD MPH PhD
           Chief Medical Officer and State Communicable Disease Epidemiologist
           Bureau of Communicable Diseases

           Jonathan Meiman, MD
           Chief Medical Officer and State Occupational and Environmental Disease Epidemiologist,
           Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health (BEOH)

COVID-19 Antigen Testing: Reporting Guidance for Employers

Background

Wisconsin employers that have taken measures over the past year related to universal masking, improved sanitation, symptom screening, and contact tracing have reduced the spread of COVID-19 and enhanced worker safety. As COVID-19 testing has become more widely available, some employers have implemented programs to test symptomatic workers and conduct routine screening.

COVID-19 testing is a critically important tool to prevent the spread of illness, and the Department of Health Services fully supports efforts by employers to make testing accessible for workers.

Antigen-based COVID-19 diagnostic tests are now being utilized in many Wisconsin workplaces. These tests provide immediate results at the time of testing and allow for the rapid identification of workers with COVID-19. Unlike traditional molecular (PCR) tests that are performed in laboratories, the results from antigen tests are not automatically submitted to public health. **This memo outlines the state reporting requirements for COVID-19 antigen tests and describes the recommended reporting option.**

COVID-19 Reporting Requirements

COVID-19 is a Category I reportable condition in Wisconsin (Wis. Admin Code ch. DHS 145). When you conduct your own COVID-19 testing at your business, you must ensure reporting of the test results (positive and negative) to local public health within 24 hours. Further information on COVID-19 reporting requirements is in the DHS Workplace outbreak guidance for employers and in DHS Health Alert #17.

DPH Memo

Page 2 of 2

Reporting Positive COVID-19 Antigen Test Results to Public Health

While employers can report antigen test results to local health officers by faxing or calling results, this does not meet federal reporting requirements under your CLIA waiver. The recommended reporting option is web-based laboratory reporting (WLR), as described below. WLR is the recommended method as it is the only method that satisfies both state and federal reporting requirements.

Web-based laboratory reporting (preferred)

Employers can report positive COVID-19 antigen test results electronically to the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS). Reporting can occur through already established electronic laboratory reporting connections or by establishing a WLR connection.

Employers that choose to use WLR can view an informational webinar from the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) and complete a request form to begin the sign-up process for reporting. Prior to submitting the WLR application, the employer's CLIA waiver must be submitted (scanned copy or email completed electronic form) to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Quality Assurance at DHSDQACLIA@wi.gov.

Manual reporting using a standard template

For employers that that have not yet implemented WLR, positive results must be manually reported using the DHS Patient Information Form (F-02700). This form can be faxed to the local or tribal public health agency in the employer's jurisdiction. Required data elements on this form include worker demographics, contact information, occupation, and specimen type. Contact information for all Wisconsin public health agencies is available on the DHS website. Please note that manual case reporting to local or tribal public health does not meet federal reporting requirements because the testing information is not sent to the U.S. Health and Human Services as required under the CLIA waiver. Efforts must be made by the employer to implement WLR to become complaint with their CLIA waiver.

Testing Resources

CDC booklet for performing waived laboratory testing: https://www.cdc.gov/clia/docs/waived-tests/ready-set-test-booklet.pdf

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene reporting background: https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/non-dhs/ltc-webinar-0917-lab-reporting.pdf

CDC "Guidance for SARS-CoV-2 Point-of-Care Testing": https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/point-of-care-testing.html

Testing section (Wisconsin Department of Health Services): https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/providers.htm