



What is Point-of-Care testing?

Point-of-care (POC) testing can be a useful component in the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) outbreak response. POC testing includes medical diagnostic testing that occurs at the time and place of patient care (e.g. bedside, physician's office), and many utilize various technologies, such as molecular amplification tests (NAAT and PCR), antigen tests and serological (antibody) tests. NAAT, PCR, and antigen COVID tests are reportable in Tennessee.

When should we report?

Facilities who perform POC testing should report **within 24 hours** of receiving a COVID-19 result. Facilities only need to report POC test results through the online reporting portal if they are not reported to TDH in another manner (electronic laboratory reporting, emergency use template, etc.).

What should we report?

Because POC testing may be performed in hospitals, outpatient clinics, pharmacies or other similar locations this guidance document was created separately from TDH's current [lab](#) and [case](#) reporting guidance. Your clinic, laboratory, or other facility must report all POC test results in a standardized way. If you are a laboratory or large healthcare facility, these results can be included in your existing HL7 Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) or emergency use template lab reporting files. However, if you are a clinic, non-medical (i.e. school, correctional facility, etc.) or similar site that does not currently report via ELR you are still responsible for sending TDH standardized lab reports of all POC results.

Report NAAT, PCR, and antigen COVID-19 Point-of-Care testing results, regardless of result (positive, negative, or inconclusive/indeterminate).

It is critical that TDH receive as much complete information as possible on these laboratory results. Demographics such as date of birth/age, race, and ethnicity are required* to be reported on ALL results regardless of test type or result.

Report:

- The following COVID-19 test types:
 - NAAT
 - PCR
 - Antigen

- All result types:
 - Positive
 - Negative
 - Inconclusive/indeterminate



How should we report point-of-care testing results?

If you are a hospital or reference laboratory currently reporting all COVID lab results to TDH via HL7 ELR or the emergency use template, please include these POC test results into that feed. If that is not possible, please see the clinician guidance below.

Clinicians, healthcare facilities and other settings utilizing POC testing are requested to report individual results (positive, negative and inconclusive/indefinite) to TDH via the POC reporting portal.

1. [Register](#) your facility for online reporting. **Your facility will not be able to submit data through the POC reporting portal without registering first.**
2. Once the facility has been registered, you will receive the link to the reporting portal and your facility- specific information will prepopulate into the reporting portal so that you will not need to re-enter this information with each report.

What if we are using multiple POC testing devices in my facility?

Include all POC devices used in your facility when registering. The list of FDA-approved EUA devices can be found [here](#).

Can more than one person at my facility report POC results?

You can share your link with other reporters at your facility. The reporter's information will populate based on the person who registered, but there is no need for each reporter to update with their info. The only thing the reporter will need to update is the patient and result information. You can have the link open at the same time by multiple people as well.

What if we perform a large volume of testing and using the portal to report is too time consuming?

Contact CEDS.Informatics@tn.gov for more information on alternate methods of reporting POC results.

What if we perform other COVID-19 tests beyond Point of Care tests?

Information on reporting additional types of COVID test results and clinical information can be found in TDH's current [lab](#) and [case](#) reporting guidance.

What if we do not perform any testing at our site, we send out all specimens for testing at a reference lab?

Information on reporting results for tests performed at a reference laboratory can be found [here](#).

We are a Long-Term Care Facility (LTCF) and want to use NHSN instead of Redcap to report POC tests, can we do this and how?

All CMS-certified long-term care facilities are required to submit point-of-care SARS-CoV-2 testing data, including antigen testing data, to CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) as directed [here](#). This is completed through the NHSN LTCF COVID-19 module which launched on 15 October 2020. To utilize this pathway, facilities need to update their NHSN Secure Access Management Service (SAMS) credentials from Level 1 to Level 3. Guidance on doing this can be found [here](#). Training is available on the NHSN website [here](#). Non-CMS- certified long-term care facilities are still required to report their POC test results, but this can be done through the TDH POC reporting portal rather than NHSN though NHSN can be utilized if the facility prefers. Facilities are only required to report their POC results through one platform.