



COLORADO

Department of Public
Health & Environment

PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER 20-27 HOSPITAL DATA REPORTING FOR COVID-19

PURPOSE

I issue this Public Health Order (PHO or Order) concerning the reporting of data from hospitals regarding patients who are confirmed or suspected to have coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) for the purpose of compiling relevant demographic information to have a better understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on all populations in Colorado. Additionally, with the continuing increase of COVID-19 cases in Colorado, this Order further requires reporting from hospitals concerning their medical resources and supplies to provide a statewide profile of the medical resources available, and any resource gaps

FINDINGS

On March 11, 2020, Governor Jared Polis issued Executive Order D 2020 003 declaring a disaster emergency in Colorado regarding COVID-19. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus. Symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing. As of April 20, 2020, there are 10,447 known cases of COVID-19 in Colorado. However, testing for COVID-19 is not yet common. As of April 20, 2020, 2,003 Coloradans have been hospitalized and 486 Coloradans have died from COVID-19.

Since the emergency declaration, several additional executive orders and public health orders have been issued implementing the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including requiring Coloradans to stay at home unless working for a critical business or government entity, mandating social distancing in all settings, closing schools to in-person learning, and a number of other measures intended to slow the spread of disease and ultimately flatten the curve. Additionally, in Executive Order D 2020 032 Governor Polis adopted the revised Colorado Crisis Standards of Care Plan (CSC Plan) recommended by the Governor's Emergency Expert Epidemic Response Committee (GEEERC) and authorized the Chief Medical Officer for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to activate the CSC Plan as needed. The Chief Medical Officer activated the personal protective equipment (PPE) and emergency medical services (EMS) crisis standards of care on April 7 and April 8, 2020, respectively.

Crisis standards of care provide standards for implementation when a health care system does not have adequate resources to meet a surge in demand, and includes a framework and tools for altering normal patient care, staffing, medical equipment, supplies, and treatment decisions in any type of healthcare setting. This Plan is designed to assist healthcare providers in their decision making with the intention of maximizing patient survival and minimizing the adverse outcomes that might occur due to changes to normal operations when the volume of patients

surpasses the available capabilities and capacity of healthcare providers/facilities and normal standards of care can no longer be maintained.

As Colorado continues to combat the global COVID-19 pandemic, in order for our hospitals to have the medical equipment and supplies they need to provide quality patient care, it is imperative that CDPHE track and monitor the medical equipment and supplies across the state, identify gaps, and implement strategies to acquire additional equipment and supplies or shift existing resources to areas of higher need. Similarly, monitoring COVID-19 associated hospital and ICU admissions will be critical in guiding future state and local decision-making on lifting and reimplementing social distancing policies. And collecting data on the laboratory testing conducted by hospitals will also add to our understanding of the statewide picture of COVID-19.

Additionally, as CDPHE receives information from hospitals and other healthcare providers regarding individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19, we have identified specific data points for reporting that are necessary for us to better understand disease transmission and impacts on our communities and to further improve our disease control efforts, including targeting testing and future prevention and treatment strategies.

The United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has also requested that hospitals provide certain data points daily pertaining to suspected or positive cases, laboratory testing, and medical equipment and supplies.

ORDER

1. I hereby order that all hospitals in Colorado report information to CDPHE pertaining to patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, laboratory testing conducted, and the hospital's medical equipment and supplies as set forth below. CDPHE will provide the reporting platforms and the form and format for submission of the required information, which may be modified as the response to this pandemic evolves. The data collected may be linked to a national platform for situational awareness of the medical equipment and supply needs in Colorado. Daily reporting of this information to CDPHE is required. CDPHE currently also collects patient-specific information for disease control purposes from hospitals, and that data collection will continue. Any patient identifiable information collected will be held as confidential and will not be shared publicly.

2. All hospitals shall report to CDPHE, in a form and format determined by CDPHE, certain information for all suspected (pending laboratory test) and confirmed (positive laboratory test) cases of COVID-19, including but not limited to race and ethnicity; numbers of suspected and confirmed cases who are hospitalized, who are hospitalized and using a ventilator, or who are in the emergency department waiting for an inpatient bed; numbers of suspected and confirmed cases who are discharged and in recovery; and deaths due to COVID-19.



3. All hospitals shall report to CDPHE, in a form and format determined by CDPHE, medical equipment and supply information, including but not limited to total bed and intensive care unit (ICU) bed capacity and occupancy, ventilator availability and utilization, and availability of N95 masks.

4. All hospitals shall report to CDPHE, in a form and format determined by CDPHE, laboratory testing information, including but not limited to number of diagnostic tests ordered, number of diagnostic tests performed, and number of positive and negative test results.

This Order is effective on April 22, 2020 and will continue to be in effect until May 31, 2020, unless extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing.



Jill Hunsaker Ryan, MPH
Executive Director

April 21, 2020

Date

