PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

CHANGES TO CLINICAL LABORATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

JULY 31, 2020

Background

Pursuant to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH)’s publicly noticed changes in DPH-20-021 dated July 10, 2020, Title XVII of the California Code of Regulations §2505 has been amended to reflect additional demographic data that must be reported by clinical laboratories, as well as changes in timeframe for reporting of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 clinical disease.

Changes to Clinical Laboratory Reporting for SARS-CoV-2

§2505 now requires laboratories to notify the local public health officer or designee of a positive detection of SARS-CoV-2 no later than eight hours after notification of the ordering clinician, or, for referral and specialty laboratories receiving specimens for testing from other labs, no later than eight hours after notification of the submitting lab. “Local” is the county of residence of the patient, or if this is unknown, the county of the ordering clinician.

Changes to Clinical Laboratory Reporting for All Reportable Diseases, Including SARS-CoV-2

§2505 now requires that test requisitions for all reportable diseases contain race and ethnicity, and this information shall be incorporated into laboratory reporting. Race groups defined by the U.S. Census may include American Indian & Alaskan Native, Asian, Black, Native Hawai’ian-Pacific Islander, and White; ethnicity groups differentiate Hispanic and Non-Hispanic individuals. Race and ethnicity information is critically important particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic where this information is frequently not provided.

We appreciate your help in keeping all residents of Riverside County healthy.

###