



OKLAHOMA

March 30, 2020

Dear Laboratory Colleagues,

63 O.S. § 1-503 requires the Oklahoma State Department of Health (“OSDH”) promulgate rules and regulations for reporting cases of diseases diagnosed or detected by laboratories. Novel coronavirus is among those required by OSDH to be reported immediately upon suspicion, diagnosis, or testing.¹

As Commissioner, I have the authority to designate any disease or condition as reportable for a designated period of time for the purpose of enhanced public health surveillance or special investigation.² To ensure there is no question as to whether Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) is reported, the State earlier in March designated COVID-19 as a disease that is immediately reportable to OSDH. With this designation, the State is instructing private labs to report both positive results and negative results to ensure the State has the full picture of COVID-19’s impact in Oklahoma. The designation shall be in effect until further notice. Any laboratories that fail or refuse to report findings to OSDH may subject to civil and criminal penalties.

This is a letter of reminder that the State requires you to promptly provide any findings of COVID-19 to OSDH by submitting electronically via the PHIDDO system or submitted via secure electronic data transmission to the OSDH as well as to report testing capacity pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Order 2020-07. Thank you in advance for your continued cooperation as we work together to fight COVID-19.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Cox". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gary Cox, J.D.
Commissioner
Oklahoma State Department of Health

¹ OAC 310:515-1-3(9).

² OAC 310:515-1-6.