



Date: August 12, 2020

To: Commercial and Hospital Laboratories

From: Maggie Park, MD, Health Officer *Maggie Park*

Urgent - Alternate Reporting of Reportable Diseases to San Joaquin County Public Health Services

As you may know the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) system, that most laboratories rely on for reporting communicable diseases, has been having problems since July 25, 2020. In the past few days CDPH has gotten some of the problems fixed, but not all of the data is going through and there are some errors in the data. This is impacting reporting of all communicable diseases, including COVID-19.

CDPH sent a letter to all laboratories on Aug 4, 2020 with an Excel spreadsheet asking you report to the local health departments using the spreadsheet, going back to July 25. This request is in addition to your usual electronic reporting process and will allow us to cross check the data to ensure the electronic reporting is working properly.

Since there are still problems with the electronic reporting system, San Joaquin County Public Health Services (SJCPHS) is asking all laboratories to send in **all communicable disease reports, including COVID-19** via the Excel spreadsheet that you received by CDPH. Most laboratory systems should be able to populate the spreadsheet electronically. Please include all reportable disease data back to July 25, 2020 and continue to report at least once a day using the Excel spreadsheet until CDPH says that it's no longer needed.

For San Joaquin County residents the completed spreadsheets are to be sent to the following email: SJCDiseaseReporting@sjcphs.org.

The spreadsheet can be found at http://www.sjcphs.org/disease/disease_control_reporting.aspx.

IMPORTANT: Please do not add or remove any columns from this spreadsheet. Also, please do not change the headings in the first row – these must be kept exactly the same for automated processing to occur. Your data should be entered starting at row 2. Include as many of the data elements as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation in this difficult time. We appreciate all you do to help control communicable diseases in our communities. If you have any questions please call (209) 468-3828.