Last week, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced changes to its process for collecting mandated daily COVID-19-related data from hospitals. The request included a small subset of additional data items that was mandated to be reported beginning last Wednesday and the remaining set of additional data fields listed in the Guidance for Hospital Reporting Document that must be reported beginning tomorrow, July 22.

The Louisiana Department of Health’s (LDH) ESF-8 Portal was able to meet last week’s data reporting requirement by adding four new fields to the COVID View in Resource Management, and the Department will meet tomorrow’s requirement with the remaining data fields being accessible in Resource Management effective at midnight tonight.

HHS has given LDH permission to start collecting this data and submitting it to HHS on hospitals’ behalf beginning tomorrow.

Four new COVID Views were added to compile and organize the additional mandated fields in the ESF-8 Portal:

- COVID Hospitals-1: Contains most of the original COVID fields in place since March
- COVID Hospitals-2: Contains the new data elements relating to adult admits by age group for both COVID-Positive and COVID-PUI (Pending). It also includes data about ED visits.
- COVID Hospitals-3: Contains most of the new data about staffing and supply shortages
- COVID Hospitals-4: Contains the remainder of the supply and inventory questions

LDH is currently evaluating some language changes and a requirement to add an additional field, so hospital staff members are reminded to monitor ESF-8 Portal messages, as LDH will be sending additional materials today and tomorrow.

Hospitals should contact their Designated Regional Coordinators if they have any questions regarding data reporting.

Note: This Alert is being distributed on July 21, 2020 to hospital C-Suite personnel in the LHA database.