



LHA COVID-19 ALERT



LHA COVID-19 Alert: April 21, 2020

LDH Receives FEMA Approval for Data Reporting on Behalf of Hospitals; In-House and Commercial Lab Testing Responsibilities Remain the Same

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) recently sent a [letter](#) to hospital administrators announcing that the Department has obtained approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide requested data on behalf of Louisiana hospitals utilizing the ESF-8 Hospital Portal. Therefore, **hospitals are released of the requirement to meet the reporting obligations outlined in the letters from [Vice President Mike Pence](#) on March 29, 2020 and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [Secretary Alex Azar](#) on April 10, 2020.**

LDH will make modifications to the ESF-8 portal during the next several days in order to meet the additional data elements currently not captured but required by HHS and FEMA. LDH stated in the letter that for the Department “to take on this responsibility, it is of utmost importance for hospitals to be diligent with daily reporting into the ESF8 portal, including the new data elements that will be added.” If you have any questions, please contact Emergency Preparedness Program Manager Frances Arledge at farledge@lhaonline.org.

Hospitals are still responsible for reporting their in-house and commercial lab testing data directly to HHS via the HHS Protect System. As hospitals acquire in-house laboratory testing capabilities for COVID-19, they should contact the FEMA/HHS COVID-19 Diagnostics Task Force at fema-hhs-covid-diagnostics-tf@fema.dhs.gov for support and access to the HHS Protect System.

This and other local, state and national hospital-specific resources and guidance from trusted sources can be found on the LHA’s COVID-19 [webpage](#).

Note: This Alert is being distributed to **hospital C-Suite personnel** in the LHA database.