



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLNESS
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

GREG FISCHER
MAYOR

SARAH MOYER, MD, MPH
DIRECTOR

Memorandum

Date: June 24, 2020

To: Healthcare Providers in Jefferson County, Kentucky

From: Lori Caloia, Medical Director, Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness

CC: Sarah Moyer, Matt Rhodes, Rui Zhao, Kathy Turner

Re: COVID-19 Case Definition and Case Reporting, Case Investigation, and Contact Tracing Updates

Thank you, fellow healthcare provider in Jefferson County, for answering the call of duty and responding to the community's needs during the COVID-19 Pandemic. I have been impressed by the innovation, ingenuity, and resilience of our healthcare teams.

I wanted to provide some updates for Jefferson County that are pertinent to clinical practice as well as community-wide disease prevention:

- **Case Definition.** The case definition for COVID-19 has changed. As background, the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CTSE) provides case definitions for each disease requiring public health surveillance. The CTSE-recommended case definition for COVID-19 can be found [here](#). Kentucky-specific COVID-19 Case Classification released 5-12-2020 mirrors this national guidance. Please understand these definitions are for disease surveillance purposes and are not designed to be used as a clinical tool. Antibody testing is a part of this new case definition, and further information about COVID-19 antibody testing can be found [here](#). There remains debate about the current utility of antibody testing, and **direct methods** (i.e. PCR) are considered the primary tool for diagnosing diagnoses of an active SARS-CoV-2 infection. Antibody tests, if used, should be [FDA-authorized](#) and, as with all tests used in a clinical setting, sensitivity, specificity, and positive and negative predictive value must help to guide the appropriateness of their use for the patient in front of you.
- **Reporting of Communicable Disease.** Suspected, probable, and confirmed cases of COVID-19 should be reported to the local health department in the county in which the patient resides. When the county is unknown, cases should be reported to the state health department. Reporting should be performed using the [updated CDC PUI form](#) *which should be filled out as accurately and completely as possible and forwarded to the health department within 24 hours of identification*. This is essential for rapid case investigation, contact tracing and exclusion of sick and exposed individuals from the population to reduce the spread of disease and prevent further morbidity and mortality. [COVID-19-related deaths](#) and cases of Pediatric [Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome \(PMIS\) Potentially Associated with COVID-19](#) should also be reported. For Jefferson County residents, **PUI forms can be faxed to (502) 574-5865**. For non-Jefferson County residents, fax PUI

forms to the **KDPH secure fax at (502) 696-3803**. Due to our high volume of calls, please continue to call the **State Provider Support Hotline at 1-877-435-7219** for general provider questions. For cases specific to Jefferson County, the Louisville Metro Department of Health and Wellness Communicable Disease team can be reached at (502) 574-6675.

- **Case Investigation.** Please let patients know that they will be contacted by a trained Case Investigator from Lacuna Health, our contracted provider, to discuss their case, to explain isolation, to help with any unmet essential needs that might arise during isolation, and to obtain information about their close contacts. The call will come from LOU HEALTH and a 502 area code Caller ID. They will be asked to sign an electronic isolation order. A Lacuna Health Daily Patient Monitor will also contact them daily to provide a symptom check which serves two purposes:
 - 1) to make sure they are not worsening and require a higher level of care, and
 - 2) to allow them to be released from isolation as soon as they meet the CDC and Kentucky criteria to do so.
- **Contact Tracing.** Contact Tracers from our contracted provider (Lacuna Health) will reach out to the close contacts of patients directly OR working through their school or employer when necessary to identify close contacts at risk of COVID-19 who require quarantine for 14 days after last known exposure. These calls will also come from LOU HEALTH and a 502 area code Caller ID. Contact tracing also includes Daily Patient Monitors following up with contacts each day to ensure they do not develop COVID-19 symptoms and provide appropriate education and guidance if they do.
- **Release from Isolation.** The KDPH Guidance on release from isolation can be found [here](#). The local health department is checking in with patients regularly to determine when they can be released from isolation following these guidelines. We advise patients at this time that the health department will make the ultimate determination of when the end of isolation is indicated, so please contact us in situations where this may be unclear.