NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Public Health
Communicable Disease Branch

Communicable Disease Branch Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Key Points

August 11, 2020

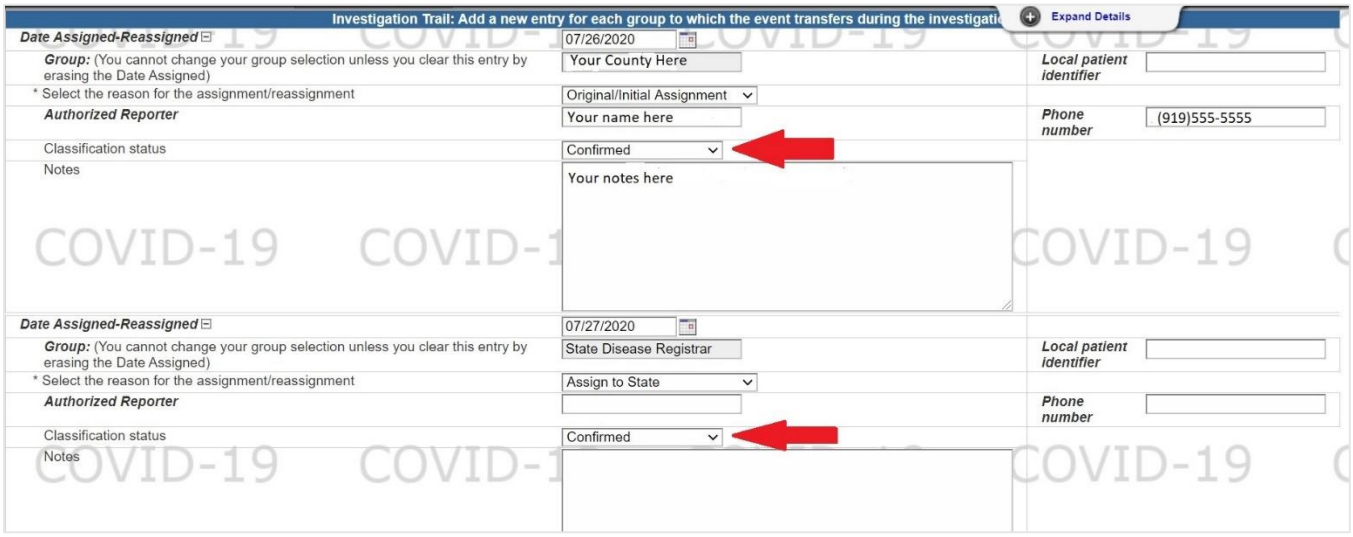
The North Carolina Division of Public Health (NC DPH) Communicable Disease Branch will be releasing COVID-19 weekly key points that includes information discussed on the weekly Tuesday Local Health Department call. Recordings of the call will not be made available; please use the information below as a summary of the topics presented on the call. As guidance changes, please use the most recent information provided. For questions, contact the NC DPH Communicable Disease Branch 24/7 Epidemiologist on Call at **919-733-3419**.

Important updates

- **New:** Webinar Slide Deck (file attached)
- **New:** COVID-19 Allocations (email attached)
- **New:** AA543_Allocations_SFY.pdf (file attached)
- **New:** New Hanover County Presentation (file attached)
- **New:** Alamance County LTC Collaborative Worksheet for Facilities (file attached)
- **New:** Support Services RFA
- **New:** Support Services FAQs
- **Updated:** Find My Testing Place (file attached)

NC EDSS / NC COVID

NC COVID has officially launched! When assigning COVID-19 events to the State in the Investigation Trail of the Administrative Package, please update the classification status to either “Confirmed, Probable, or Does not meet criteria” in both your box and the State’s box. Please do not leave the classification status as “Unspecified” in the box created when you assign the event to the state. Your Investigation Trail should look like this:



If the patient has a positive PCR test, they should be categorized as a "Confirmed" case. If the patient has a positive antigen test, they should be categorized as a "Probable" case.

Paper Lab Entry: Most faxed labs received by the State are manually entered into NC COVID the same day; if they are received late in the evening, they are typically entered in less than 12 hours. Please do **NOT** enter an event into NC COVID if you do not physically have a lab; please wait until you have the lab to enter it as blank labs can cause errors in reporting. If a negative lab feeds into the event of a patient who was previously positive, the event should remain marked as a "Confirmed" event. It should **NOT** be changed it to "Does not meet criteria." Just remember, "Once confirmed, always confirmed."

Please complete the interview/contact tracing section in the risk history package in NC COVID. These variables are the first step of measuring contact tracing outcomes. Completion of this section will be added to county and state level reports; it is difficult to measure case and contact investigation outcomes without them.

Contact Tracing

This week, the Contact Tracing Team will be releasing recommendations on how to best to utilize limited staff for case and contact outreach; prioritization should be given to cases and contacts who are at the highest risk of transmitting the virus or of having severe complications if infected. This will include consideration of time between specimen collection and report to public health, as we know that long turnaround times can decrease the effectiveness of contact tracing.

Update on LHD security in the contact tracing software: We have heard that some of you would like to keep CCTO the way it is rather than implement LHD-based security. To gather your input, we have sent out a survey to the CCTO admin user in each LHD. Please complete the survey; your responses will influence our decision on whether and how to implement LHD security in CCTO.

The CCTO software has some new capacities:

- The contact variable, at the bottom of the contact record left column, where the case/contact slider used to be, now has three choices: contact, case (if you are monitoring case patients) and "contact became a case" for when you learn that a contact has become infected.
- In the final monitoring outcome variable, one of the outcome choices is now "contact became a case"
- Monitoring cases in CCTO job aid

We are looking at case and contact investigation outcomes from our NC EDSS and CCTO data, and you can too!

- Data can be linked from the two systems together by matching the NC EDSS ID in an NC EDSS report, such as the event line list, to the source patient NC EDSS event ID in a CCTO export. Linking on this field matches a case to their contacts.

- Then to learn what happened, we look at the interview yes/no variable and the interview date from NC COVID and the date of phone call and final monitoring outcome from CCTO. The interview variable will be added to an NC COVID report in upcoming weeks.
- For any of us to learn from these outcomes, we need those variables to be filled: interview yes/no, interview date in NC EDSS, and source patient NC EDSS ID, phone call fields, and final monitoring outcome in CCTO.
- You can find a training on downloading data from CCTO on the AHEC website with the contact tracing training; LHD admin users will have the capacity to download from CCTO. Click here and scroll down to the View and Downloading Training for CCTO Administrators.

Find My Testing Place

Please continue to review the updated 'Find My Testing Place LHD' Excel file weekly to ensure information is up to date and accurate. Please send the updated files or any related questions to SVC_Covid-19TestingSites@dhhs.nc.gov

Enhancing Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Detection AA 543

Questions regarding budgetary estimates: The total funding to LHDs is $35,000,000 and covers a period of 30 months, which shall be spread over the 2020-21 and 2021-22 fiscal years. This ensures available funding through both years: $20,000,000 for FY 20/21 and $15,000,000 FY 21/22. Unspent funds from the 2020-21 fiscal year will be eligible for carry over to the next. Please see the attached document *AA543_Allocations_SFY*. Your LHD AA 543 Budgetary Estimate 01 should align with the column labeled SFY 20-21 on the attached. Also attached is an email from Assistant Secretary Mark Benton that details COVID-19 Allocations.

Other questions about AA 543: Please forward questions to Beth Lovette at beth.lovette@dhhs.nc.gov If you have already sent questions to other DPH staff or to NCALHD President Janet Clayton, please do repeat, all previous questions will be emailed to Beth Lovette. We'll be expanding the NCALHD Executive Leadership/DPH Leadership call on Thursday, August 13 at 9:00 AM. A formal meeting invitation will be sent by Beth Lovette.

COVID-19 Support Services Program

A FAQ sheet on the COVID-19 Support Services Program mentioned on Tuesday's LDH call can be found here. More information on the Support Services RFA can be found here. The press release detailing the selection of vendors to supervise 250+ new community health workers (CHWs) in 50 counties with COVID-19 hot spots can be found here.