



March 26, 2020

Ordering and reporting COVID-19 laboratory tests

Under Oregon law a medical laboratory can release the results of a COVID-19 test to:

- The health care provider who ordered the test; and
- The patient if the patient's health care provider has authorized the results to be released directly to the patient, or no sooner than seven (7) days since the patient asked for the results

The reason for the potential delay in a patient getting a test result directly from a laboratory is to provide time for a health care provider, involved with the treatment of a patient, to discuss the results with the patient.

This law does not have to result in any delay for the patient in obtaining the results of a test.

We urge health care providers to do the following:

- Authorize the medical laboratory to release COVID-19 test results directly to patients.
- Notify patients immediately of their COVID-19 test results.

We urge medical laboratories to do the following:

- Ensure there is a clear and simple process for health care providers to authorize the release of COVID-19 test results directly to patients.
- Immediately send completed COVID-19 test results to health care providers.

While the Governor's declaration of emergency is in effect, the state will not enforce ORS 438.430(3)(a) as applied to a medical laboratory, if a laboratory decides to provide a patient with a COVID-19 test result, upon request.

Both medical laboratories and health care providers are required to report COVID-19 test results to the state and local public health authorities.