

Connecticut manages astronomical increase in lab results reporting using innovative, efficient solutions



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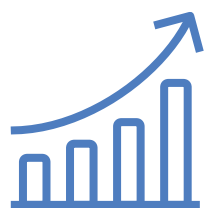
CATEGORY: **Epidemiology & Laboratory Capacity (ELC)**

CATEGORY: **Laboratory Data Exchange**

Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) demonstrated resilience and creativity to manage a >11,000% increase in electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) volume during COVID-19, leading to lasting modernization and more timely processes.

The “What”

When pandemic response efforts evolved nationwide to enable COVID-19 testing at **non-traditional sites**, CT DPH reacted quickly to identify and establish **electronic reporting options** for these locations. Staff from the Environmental Public Health Tracking Network worked collaboratively with Informatics staff to quickly establish an ad hoc method to receive and process these results. Using COVID-19 funds, they further developed their cross-disciplinary team to lend efficiency to processing incoming lab results. They also collaborated with other states to learn from their solutions and adopted an application already successfully in use elsewhere to sustain this effort going forward.



**>11,000%
increase**

in lab results due to
COVID-19 testing

The “So What”

This response meant CT DPH could use their limited staffing in Informatics to work on the overall laboratory data collection as well as necessary COVID-19 data entry and cleaning to try to keep up with the >11,000% increase (as of 2023) in lab results due to COVID-19 testing. Their process modernization enabled them to better provide timely data for state and federal situational awareness and decision making. In the face of this massive increase in total volume, they were able to modernize processes and systems to cope.

The “Now What”

CT DPH is drawing on these innovative practices to further increase efficiency of processes and access to timely data. They are now working to use this template and process for providers performing in-office blood lead screening, which will save time and energy in getting these results from providers. They are also expanding to include ELR reporting from non-traditional labs and testing sites for other reportable diseases. These efforts give CT DPH a realistic and efficient lab results reporting option that is more accessible to partners who haven't been able to report electronically before, reducing the manual reporting management effort from providers and CT DPH staff.

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