



TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Electronic Laboratory Result Reporting Fact Sheet

For more information contact the CEDEP Surveillance Systems & Informatics Program

The Communicable and Environmental Disease and Emergency Preparedness Section (CEDEP) within the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) has programmatic oversight of the diseases and conditions that are reportable to the State of Tennessee and how they are to be reported from hospitals, providers, and laboratories. This information sheet outlines basic information for three groups interested in Electronic Laboratory Result Reporting (ELR): any interested laboratory; interested providers; and hospitals or medical record vendors interested in Electronic Laboratory Result Reporting (ELR), including those interested in obtaining Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) "Meaningful Use" incentive payments.

The potential benefits of ELR include the automation & standardization of the laboratory reporting process, freeing up resources used for manual documentation and reporting, and the possible elimination of paper laboratory reporting. ELR can promote more timely laboratory reporting, and can ultimately improve the validity and reliability of information for better case detection, surveillance, and disease investigation activities. Reporting by laboratories does not nullify the health care provider's or institution's obligation to report these diseases and conditions (<https://apps.health.tn.gov/ReportableDiseases/StateRules.aspx>), nor does reporting by health care providers nullify the laboratory's obligation to report.

1. Any laboratory interested in sending reportable laboratory results electronically to the state of TN

- a. **Who may participate:** Laboratories currently reporting conditions to TDH, including hospital and clinical laboratories, public health laboratories, and regional and national laboratories, who wish to explore sending these results electronically using standard messages.
- b. **What is reportable:** Reports of laboratory results indicating diseases declared to be communicable and/or dangerous to the public are to be reported to TDH. Please visit <https://apps.health.tn.gov/ReportableDiseases> for specific details on the list of diseases that are reportable in the State of Tennessee.
- c. **What will be sent and how:** Those reporting can send electronic laboratory report (ELR) messages following either the HL7 2.5.1 **OR** 2.3.1 ELR Implementation Guide for Public Health Reporting to TDH. Hospital associated laboratories testing for Meaningful Use are required to send HL7 2.5.1 messages. The Implementation Guide may be downloaded from hl7.org. Messages can be sent via several different transport methods and the method to be used will be determined during testing.
- d. **To learn more:** To contact TDH CEDEP Surveillance Systems and Informatics program about ELR activities call (615) 532-6655 or email CEDS.Informatics@tn.gov.

2. Any provider interested in sending reportable laboratory results electronically to the state of TN

a. ***If you are an interested provider:*** Individual providers typically do not send laboratory result reports to TDH. However, providers are required to send Public Health Case Reports to the Department of Health, which often times include laboratory information. Please visit <https://apps.health.tn.gov/ReportableDiseases> for specific details on the list of diseases & conditions that are reportable in the State of Tennessee. Individual providers are not eligible for Meaningful Use incentive payments for sending reportable laboratory results electronically.

b. ***To learn more:*** To contact TDH CEDEP Surveillance Systems and Informatics program about ELR activities call (615) 532-6655 or email CEDS.Informatics@tn.gov.

3. Any hospital or vendor representing a hospital interested in sending reportable laboratory results electronically to the state of TN, including ELR activities, for CMS Meaningful Use Incentive Payments

a. ***If you are an interested hospital not currently participating in a Health Information Exchange:*** Hospitals not currently part of a local or regional Health Information Exchange may choose to send laboratory result reports directly to TDH from the Electronic Health Record (EHR) or Laboratory Information System (LIS).

b. ***If you are an interested hospital belonging to a Health Information Exchange:*** Hospitals belonging to a local or regional Health Information Exchange may choose to send laboratory result reports to TDH from the Electronic Health Record (EHR) or Laboratory Information System (LIS) either directly or through their Health Information Exchange.

c. ***If you are a hospital or a vendor representing hospitals interested in electronic data exchange and eligible for CMS "Meaningful Use" incentive payments:*** Tennessee is accepting electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) using interoperability standards for Meaningful Use. The hospital must have a certified system. Laboratory results can be generated and sent from either the Electronic Health Record (EHR) or Laboratory Information System (LIS).

d. ***What is reportable:*** Reports of laboratory results indicating diseases declared to be communicable and/or dangerous to the public are to be reported to TDH. Please visit <https://apps.health.tn.gov/ReportableDiseases> for specific details on the list of diseases that are reportable in the State of Tennessee.

e. ***What will be sent and how:*** Those reporting can send electronic laboratory result reports (ELR) messages following the HL7 2.5.1 ELR Implementation Guide for Public Health Reporting to TDH. The Implementation Guide may be downloaded from hl7.org. Messages can be sent via several different transport methods which will be determined during testing.

f. ***To learn more:*** To contact TDH CEDEP Surveillance Systems and Informatics program about ELR activities call (615) 532-6655 or email CEDS.Informatics@tn.gov.