



May 12, 2020

Dear Hospitals:

Thank you for your work on the front lines to protect Texans from COVID-19. Your role is critical in mitigating the impact of the pandemic in our state.

I am writing today to ask for your help. Diagnostic testing for the virus that causes COVID-19 is critically important for our state's physical and economic health. We must have a robust testing regimen to provide visibility on the virus' impact on our state. Governor Abbott has set a goal that the state test 30,000 people per day to ensure we are identifying COVID-19 cases.

To ensure that we achieve this goal, which will inform our action to re-open the state, we need to know about the level of testing in your facility. As required by Governor Abbott's executive order, **every public or private entity** that is utilizing an FDA-approved test, or one made available under an emergency use authorization, for human diagnostic purposes of COVID-19, **shall submit to DSHS, as well as to the local health department, daily reports of all positive, negative, and indeterminate test results.** This includes any point-of-care testing performed in physician offices, primary care clinics, urgent care clinics, and emergency rooms.

Please ensure that your facility is reporting all point-of-care testing results. If you have any questions about submitting lab results to DSHS, contact IDI@dshs.texas.gov for more information on how to report.

Thank you again for everything you are doing to respond to COVID-19 in Texas. Our combined efforts are needed to combat this novel virus and to mitigate its impact on our state. Your work is vital to the Texas response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Hellerstedt", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

John Hellerstedt, M.D.