



# COVID-19 State Reporting Certification

22 July 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter certifies that the State of Texas is reporting for all of the hospitals in the state using one of the approved reporting options to report COVID-19 information to the federal government at the required frequency and required amount of detail.

Texas is certified for:

hospital capacity and utilization data

In-house laboratory testing data

Data on daily hospital capacity and utilization and diagnostic laboratory testing data are used for the national public health emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including for prioritization and allocation of critical resources across the Nation. These data and resulting analyses support the White House Coronavirus Task Force, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Response Coordination Center.

Per Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar's [Guidance for Hospital Reporting and FAQs](#), states may assume federal reporting responsibilities from hospitals in their jurisdiction to collect COVID-19 data to reduce reporting burden for the hospitals.

Because Texas has been certified as reporting all of the required fields on behalf of all of its required hospitals, this letter authorizes the State of Texas to relieve individual hospitals in their area of reporting the required  COVID-19 capacity and utilization data  In-house laboratory test data directly to the federal government. This release from federal reporting requirements does not affect requirements for facilities to adhere to local and state public health reporting requirements, including reporting outbreaks to public health authorities where mandated.

Please note this certificate and any waivers that result from it are conditional upon continued compliance to submit the required data from all hospitals in the state. If the reporting frequency, completeness of data elements or completeness of reporting hospitals no longer meet the stated levels of reporting this certification and any associated waivers may be revoked.

Submitted COVID-19 data at the state, county, territory and facility level will be managed and consolidated into HHS' COVID-19 tracking system, HHS Protect, which is maintained in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response. Access to HHS Protect will be provided to States for viewing available data.



If the reporting mechanism changes or all required data elements are not reported with the required frequency, this letter must be updated and the State of Texas must be re-certified.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy D. Taylor".

Captain Amy Taylor  
HHS ASPR Region VI  
Regional Administrator