



Daily Reporting of Hospitalized COVID-19 Positive Inpatients

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 8/31/2021

1. What is CHES?

CHES stands for Covid Hospitalization Electronic Surveillance System, a project of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. The CHES team is responsible for collecting patient level data from all Los Angeles County hospitals. CHES allows LA County to track hospitalizations and understand who is at risk for hospitalization. The CHES project was first implemented in Spring 2020 and modifications to the protocol have been made periodically since then.

2. How does CDPH advise that facilities gather vaccination data if a patient was not vaccinated at the respective facility?

For vaccination status, please include data already available in the health record. It is not necessary to look up the patient in the California Immunization Registry (CAIR) for the purposes of submission to CHES.

3. How do I report patients who have a history of a positive COVID test but do not have lab results?

Whenever possible, include hospitalized patients that have a positive test 14 days prior to or during their hospital admission. Patients with a history of a positive test more than 14 days prior to admission do not need to be included.

4. How do I include ICD codes for currently admitted cases?

You do not need to submit ICD codes for currently admitted cases. We understand that there may be a few days between discharge and final ICD coding.

5. Do I include all COVID-19 inpatients only after they receive final discharge codes?

Please include all hospitalized cases in your report as you have been previously submitting to LACDPH. When the final coding is complete, please add available data to the patients' record in the report. Discharge dates may be reported without final diagnoses codes. We understand that new patients and/or currently admitted patients will not have ICD codes in the submission file.

6. Do I need to send a data dictionary to LACDPH?

There is no need for you to submit a data dictionary if we have already mapped values for the submitted variables. LACDPH will contact you if a data dictionary is needed for any variable.

7. Do I need to submit a report if the facility does not have any patients admitted for COVID-19?

If the facility has never admitted patients with COVID-19, your facility must submit a blank report.

8. Do I need to apply the new variable requirements to historical patient data?

New variable requirements should be applied to patients whose discharge coding occurred on 9/7/21, but is recommended to be applied to patients coded on 7/1/21 or after, in accordance with CDPH AFL 21-25.