

## **Electronic Initial Case Reporting in Texas NEDSS for COVID-19**

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has successfully implemented production of COVID-19 electronic initial case reports (eICRs) into Texas National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS).

- eICRs are messages triggered by an onboarded hospital's electronic health record (EHR) system to public health.
- The eICR contains information about a patient's health encounter/visit to a health care facility that lead to the identification of the patient as having a positive COVID-19 PCR or antigen lab result.
- One goal of eICR is to replace paper patient health records currently being received by fax or mail at health departments with an easy to navigate electronic record. It will also help eliminate manual abstractions being conducted onsite at a health care facility.
- The eICR may include information such as patient demographics, encounter details, immunization records, administered medications, plan of treatment, reason for visit, results of testing completed during the encounter, and any miscellaneous notes provided by the physician/facility.
- COVID-19 eICRs are set to trigger for patients who have a positive lab result for either a PCR or antigen lab test, as indicated in the patient's EHR record.

### **eICR Utility**

As with other forms of COVID-19 case notifications, there is no requirement for follow-up as a result of this COVID-19 eICR data being provided. Local and regional jurisdictions have discretion as to whether and how they use eICR information for follow-up. eICRs are matched to existing case investigations and processed into NEDSS to streamline access to additional allowable data elements from the patient's EHR record.

### **Healthcare Organizations Participating as Initial Sites**

The two healthcare organizations participating as initial COVID-19 eICR sites are: Baylor Scott & White Health Systems and Cook Children's Health Systems. DSHS will communicate updates about next sites.

### **eICR Slides & Video Overview**

The following video provides an overview of eICR and the COVID-19 eCR algorithm in TX NEDSS: [PHID Introduction to Electronic Case Reporting \(eCR\)](#). The video is 36 minutes in length and topics covered include the following:

- What is eCR
- Benefits of eCR
- Overview of data flow
- Reportable Conditions Knowledge Management System (RCKMS)
- eICR Walkthrough & Review in NEDSS (in depth walkthrough of structure and components of an eICR and suggestions for use alongside case investigation in NEDSS)
- COVID-19 matching algorithm

### **eICR New User Report**

A new user report will be available titled *COVID-19 eICR Report*. The report will be available in the NEDSS reports section. Users will be able to pull a report that will detail COVID-19 case investigations that have a matching eICR associated in NEDSS. Please note that eICRs in production will initially only include the two healthcare organizations mentioned above, so there may not be any eICRs available yet for your area. A code dictionary for the eICR report fields is enclosed for user reference titled *NEDSS eICR Report Job Aid*.