

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) has developed a fact sheet regarding the COVID-19 case numbers it shares with the public.

DHHR is the official reporting agency for COVID-19, and in turn provides official case numbers to the CDC. Medical providers and laboratories are required to report test results to their local health departments, which provide them to DHHR. Commercial/private labs are also required to report test results to DHHR.

**Q: What must be reported to DHHR?**

**A:** COVID-19 is a new disease and therefore, newly reportable to West Virginia's public health system. Medical providers and laboratories are required to report test results to their local health departments, which provide them to DHHR. Commercial (private) labs are also required to report test results to DHHR.

**Q: What COVID-19 data is DHHR releasing?**

**A:** The figures on [coronavirus.wv.gov](https://coronavirus.wv.gov) include statewide totals for:

- All officially reported positive results in West Virginia
- All official deaths
- All laboratory results reported to DHHR

The online dashboard also provides:

- Cumulative percentage of positive test results (both to date and by date)
- Cumulative number of laboratory confirmed cases, by date reported
- Cumulative number of laboratory results reported to DHHR, by date reported
- Outbreak information for West Virginia's nursing homes
- Comparisons between West Virginia and bordering states for:
  - Case Fatality Rates
  - Percentage of Population Tested
  - Percentage of Population Positive
  - Percentage of Test Positive

**Q: What details are DHHR providing about positive cases?**

**A:** DHHR is providing increasingly detailed information about positive cases, including:

- Breakdowns of laboratory confirmed cases by:
  - Race
  - Age group
  - Gender
  - County (both cumulative cases and deaths)
- Data from Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCFs) subject to [Gov. Justice's Executive Order 27-20](#), including:
  - Name and county of nursing home
  - Number of positive residents
  - Number of positive staff
  - Deaths
- Unofficial tallies for:
  - Active cases by treatment setting (hospital, LTCF and home quarantine)
  - Recoveries
  - Treatment setting breakdowns of Top 5 counties for positive cases

**Q: How frequently is DHHR updating these COVID-19 numbers?**

**A:** DHHR is updating figures **twice each day, at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.**

**Q: Are these figures truly totals for all of West Virginia?**

**A:** For positive cases, **yes**. Because of the reporting requirements, **the official “Total Positive Cases” figure is the most reliable available statewide for West Virginia.**

DHHR has also bolstered the electronic reporting of both positive and negative test results [through an April 16 order](#) that requires every laboratory, including commercial/private facilities, subject to the state reporting requirement to immediately provide both positive and negative results to the Bureau for Public Health.

**Q: Why are DHHR’s numbers sometimes different from those reported by other sources?**

**A:** Local health departments receive reports of cases in their areas before DHHR does. Some hospitals, meanwhile, can now test more quickly than before. As a result, these sources sometimes announce results before reporting them to DHHR.

As CDC explains: “State and local public health departments are now testing and publicly reporting their cases. In the event of a discrepancy between CDC cases and cases reported by state and local public health officials, data reported by states should be considered the most up to date.”

While reporting the number of known cases serves an important public purpose, **all West Virginians should be conducting themselves as if positive cases have been reported in their counties and communities.**

As Gov. Justice’s Stay at Home executive order makes clear: every West Virginian should remain in their residence unless performing an essential activity. When performing such activities, every West Virginian must stay at least six feet from others and avoid gatherings of 10 or more people.

**Q: Does a positive case reported in my county mean I should be tested?**

**A:** Not everyone needs to be tested for COVID-19, even with known cases in their area. DHHR will provide specific guidance regarding testing whenever appropriate. Local health departments also have discretion regarding testing, as do individual health care providers. Guidance on testing is available from CDC, which also offers an online “Self-Checker” tool: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html>.

**Q: I’ve been tested, but I’ve not received my results. Can DHHR or my local health department provide them?**

**A:** Contact the provider or lab that tested you for your results. The DHHR state lab and the local health departments can only provide results for tests they conducted.