



July 23, 2020

Lisa Gables  
Interim Chief Executive Officer  
American Academy of Physician Assistants  
2318 Mill Rd., Ste.1300  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Ms. Gables:

I am reaching out with a time sensitive and critical request to notify your members about [recent guidance](#)<sup>1</sup> from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on COVID-19 laboratory test reporting requirements. Laboratories most often do not have face-to-face interaction with patients, so it is critical that ordering practitioners collect demographic information from patients at the point-of-care.

Since the start of the COVID-19 public health emergency, clinical laboratories have worked closely with the provider community and public health officials to ensure relevant patient information is included in COVID-19 test orders. This critical data helps inform prevention, surveillance, and mitigation efforts across the country. Further, this information provides important insight to better understand the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on older Americans, people of color, and other marginalized and minority communities to ensure that these high-risk populations are protected.

Clinical laboratories rely on physicians, nurse practitioners, pharmacists and other health care providers to include demographic information from patients on every test order. If we are to make progress on addressing the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on marginalized and minority communities, we must work collaboratively to address gaps in our data reporting system. Since it is not feasible for laboratories to contact every ordering clinician or patient after the fact to collect additional demographic information, it is critical that the information is collected at the point-of-care. ACLA has developed Frequently Asked Questions for providers on COVID-19 data reporting, [available here](#), which includes a detailed list of required data elements.

We appreciate your assistance in spreading the word among your members about these laboratory data reporting requirements and reinforcing the importance of ordering clinicians gathering required demographic data from patients. By working together, we are confident that we can improve our understanding of the impact of COVID-19. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Liz Thomas (lthomas@acla.com).

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<sup>1</sup> COVID-19 Pandemic Response, Laboratory Data Reporting: CARES Act Section 18115, June 4, 2020. Available at <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/covid-19-laboratory-data-reporting-guidance.pdf>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Khani', written in a cursive style.

Julie Khani  
President  
ACLA