



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

April 10, 2020

Dear Valued Partner:

Thank you for your continued support in the fight against COVID-19 across Pennsylvania. Our communities have shown strength, resilience, and patience during these difficult times.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) recognizes the urgency of the COVID-19 crisis in the Commonwealth and has initiated and supported significant efforts to stem the tide of the epidemic. From the mitigation efforts taken to close schools and businesses, to the 'stay at home' order issued by the Governor, Pennsylvania has made great strides to help all those who reside in our state. Despite these and many other successes there is still much work to be done. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, DOH expects that our partnerships will play an important role in protection of those in the Commonwealth.

DOH also recognizes that the current emergency under which the Commonwealth finds itself requires a continuing re-evaluation of the strategies being used. Such strategies include the types of information that should be disclosed and the circumstances under which the disclosures should occur. To provide an additional layer of protection to first responders in our community and to align with other county and municipal health departments, DOH has determined that data sharing with counties across the Commonwealth will be a valuable tool.

The Department of Health has determined that a single point of contact at each county will be able to receive appropriate information to effectively respond to communities in crisis. This information will include the addresses of persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 and reside within a specific county. This information is to be uploaded into a 911 computer aided dispatch system, so that this information may be relayed to emergency responders during their emergency response.

To begin the process to access this data DOH is requesting the below information for your counties designated point of contact to be sent to Dylan Ferguson, Bureau Director for Emergency Medical Services ([dyferguson@pa.gov](mailto:dyferguson@pa.gov)). Please send this information via email. Additionally, please identify your email by utilizing the subject line, "COVID-19 Data/Your County Name."

- Name of person designated to receive data.
- Title
- Email
- Phone
- County

Additionally, the county will be required to electronically sign a non-disclosure agreement prior to the Department of Health releasing any data. The NDA will be made available within the PEMA grants management system for review and electronic signature by county commissioners.

Although first responders may now have access to this data, the Department of Health implores our public safety partners to continue to be vigilant and continue to screen individuals with whom they come in contact for symptoms of COVID-19. Access to this information alone will not protect first responders. Access to this information should not create a false sense of security, nor should first responders or 911 dispatchers drop their guard and ignore previously established screening criteria. Additionally, nothing in

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the extraordinary circumstances surrounding this pandemic s should be construed as changing any otherwise existing practice relating to protected disease information, infections and conditions by any group other than public health authorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RL Levine MD".

Rachel L. Levine, M.D.  
Secretary of Health