Dear LHD CalREDIE Liaisons,

UC Davis Medical Center went “pilot live” with electronic case reporting (eCR) on Tuesday March 24, 2020. Due to the pandemic there has been increased interest in utilizing electronic case reporting (eCR) for production-level reporting of COVID-19 to CDPH. CalREDIE eCR Team is currently working in partnership with CDC, APHL and Epic to fast-track onboarding for motivated providers and healthcare organizations who wish to implement electronic case reporting (eCR) for COVID-only reporting.

On April 8, 2020, CalREDIE, along with our CDC & APHL partners, participated on the CA Regional Epic User Group call to discuss eCR for the list of 29 healthcare facilities who could potentially be ready to move forward with eCR from a technical and policy perspective within the next 2-3 months. From that group, a 1st “eCR for COVID” cohort was identified, which includes: UC Davis, Contra Costa Healthcare, Sutter, and OCHIN. The 1st cohort began sending live electronic initial case reports (eICRs) to the CalREDIE Staging environment on April 17, 2020. The 2nd eCR for COVID cohort includes: UCLA, Memorial Care, Community Medical Centers, and Washington Hospital Healthcare Services. UCLA and Memorial Care went live as of May 1, 2020. Additional “eCR for COVID” cohorts will be onboarded over the next several months. Again, at this time, data is going into the CalREDIE Staging (test) environment.

CDPH/CalREDIE approached the California Communicable Disease Control (CACDC) committee on April 10, 2020 with questions around testing and sign-off with the multiple county public health departments as many organizations attempt to go-live simultaneously. We proposed that CDPH/CalREDIE would be responsible for conducting the review and comparison of the submitter’s electronic initial case report (eICR) versus the current/legacy report during a shortened testing phase, which will take some of the burden off LHDs during this accelerated implementation. Please note that this would be for COVID eICR reports only and CalREDIE would amend this process for future reporting of additional conditions. This same information was communicated to the California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) on April 16, 2020.

CDPH/CalREDIE has explicitly stated to healthcare organizations onboarding to eCR that they are required to continue sending COVID case reports via their current method of reporting until explicitly notified by CalREDIE that the organization has been approved to send electronic initial case reports in lieu of a paper report for COVID-19.

After a shortened testing phase, the healthcare provider will be approved to send eICRs in lieu of a paper report for COVID-19. The eICRs will be made available to LHDs via the CalREDIE DISA for their jurisdiction’s review and action. The eICR will look like a web report and is intended to complement the electronic lab report (ELR). eCR does not replace the requirement for labs to continue sending ELRs. CalREDIE will identify patient and incident matches between an eICR and ELR, just as it does now for web reports and ELRs. Once an LHD imports an eICR into CalREDIE, the data will be available through the Data Distribution Portal (DDP). Please note that eCR is a new process for reporting and receiving data, and CalREDIE will be working closely with LHDs to identify issues and answer questions to the best of our ability.