



Health Alert Network Message 20-13: Declaration of Emergency Rule for the Protection of Public Health

Origination Date:
March 9, 2020

Revision Dates (list all revision dates):

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY Louisiana Department of Health Office of Public Health

The Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health (LDH/OPH), pursuant to the emergency rulemaking authority granted by R.S. 40:4(A)(13), hereby adopts the following Emergency Rule for the protection of public health. This Emergency Rule is promulgated specifically in accordance with R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act (R.S. 49:950, *et seq.*). The LDH/OPH expressly finds that an imminent peril to the public health, safety, or welfare requires adoption of this rule on an emergency basis.

The LDH/OPH finds it necessary to add coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) to the list of reportable diseases and conditions set forth in §105 of Part II of the Sanitary Code (LAC Title 51). On January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the recent COVID-19 outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern” (PHEIC). On January 31, 2020, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19.

The following Emergency Rule, effective March 6, 2020, shall remain in effect for a maximum of 120 days, or until the final Rule is promulgated, whichever occurs first.

- This Emergency Rule makes the reporting of COVID-19 cases mandatory for all healthcare providers.
- This Emergency Rule makes all laboratory tests for COVID-19, whether positive or negative, reportable to the State within 24 hours of test result.

Resources

- For the most up-to-date information, visit [cdc.gov/covid19](https://www.cdc.gov/covid19)
- For more information about COVID-19 in Louisiana visit: [Http://www.ldh.la.gov/coronavirus](http://www.ldh.la.gov/coronavirus)

Please review the document [here](#) for additional information.