

July 21, 2020

Greetings,

On July 13, 2020, the U.S. Health and Human Services dispatched a letter to U.S. hospitals informing them of the sunsetting of the NHSN COVID-19 module. In the absence of the NHSN COVID-19 module, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) has established a data reporting link between facilities and HHS Protect. The State of Indiana has received confirmation from the appropriate Federal agencies overseeing the data submissions, affirming the State of Indiana has an established, functioning reporting system (called EMResource) to the Federal Government and is delivering all of the required information. As part of an ongoing commitment to improved functionality, new data reporting categories are added as needed in order to maintain compliance with the evolving operational needs and mandatory reporting requirements of the COVID-19 response.

This letter should be considered a written confirmation from the State of Indiana that hospitals submitting all data to the EMResource system are considered compliant with Federal reporting requirements if all data fields are reported daily and accurately. Hospitals in the State of Indiana no longer need to report COVID-19 response-related data directly via Teletracking to the Federal Government, so long as they continue timely and accurate reporting into EMResource. Hospitals must opt-in for data transmission in EMResource or opt-out if facilities prefer to report directly via Teletracking instead.

Our goal is to reduce duplication of effort and reporting burden by the hospitals, so they can focus on the mission of providing healthcare.

Indiana hospitals who continue to participate in information sharing utilizing EMResource will be consistent with the request for information from Vice President Mike Pence, The White House Coronavirus Task Force, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Alex Azar. The Federal Government may request additional isolated data requests outside of those captured daily in EMResource, and hospitals should fully respond to requests for information from the ISDH or Federal partners as directed, if the need may arise.

Thank you for the important work you and your staff are doing. We appreciate your partnership and applaud your dedication.

Sincerely,



Megan M. Lytle
Director, Division of Emergency Preparedness