



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

November 9, 2020

Senate Special Committee on COVID-19
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SENT VIA EMAIL

Dear Senate Special Committee on COVID-19:

RE: Contact Tracing and Data Dashboard

Thank you for your letter recognizing the progress made by the Department of Health (Department) in the area of COVID-19 disease investigation and contact tracing. Staff have worked tirelessly to improve the capacity, efficiency and effectiveness of our state's efforts to prevent, detect and contain COVID-19.

The Department agrees that meaningful data to monitor disease activity and the state's response are useful tools to educate the public and for decision making. In response to the Committee's request for the following metrics:

1. The turnaround time from test to result: This measure is currently available on the [Department of Health, Disease Outbreak Control COVID-19 data dashboard](#). Scroll down to "How Many People are Being Tested" and click on the blue box at the bottom of the chart titled "Turnaround Time." Currently, 91% of all tests are being run locally and the median turnaround time for local laboratories is one day, and three days for mainland laboratories.
2. The lag from a positive result to first case investigation contact: This measure is currently under construction and anticipated to be available on the dashboard next week. Currently, the Department is attempting to contact every positive case within 24 hours; because of incorrect phone numbers, no contact data, refusal on the part of the person with COVID-19 to return calls or answer the phone, we are able to make contact with approximately 60% of the positive cases. Of the positive cases contacted, over 80% are reached within 24 hours.
3. The lag from case investigation contact to contact tracing: The Department is not currently able to collect quality data or report this information in a manner that would accurately reflect the activity. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has noted that not all jurisdictions are able to provide this information.

The Department will continue to refine the data reflected on the dashboard as we learn what may be most helpful to monitor disease and specific state response activities.

We appreciate your interest in public health data to educate and inform the public, target public health intervention, and to aid in decision-making.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth A. Char".

ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.
Director of Health

Cc: Senate President
MG Kenneth Hara
Emily Roberson
Edward Mersereau