



# AIMS (APHL Informatics Messaging Services)



## Origin Story

The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) developed AIMS in 2008 to give public health labs a way to easily send CDC flu data for enhanced tracking of the disease.

AIMS initially functioned as a one-way router of critical health information. But the public health community soon realized the need for bidirectional transmissions and information exchange on a large scale.

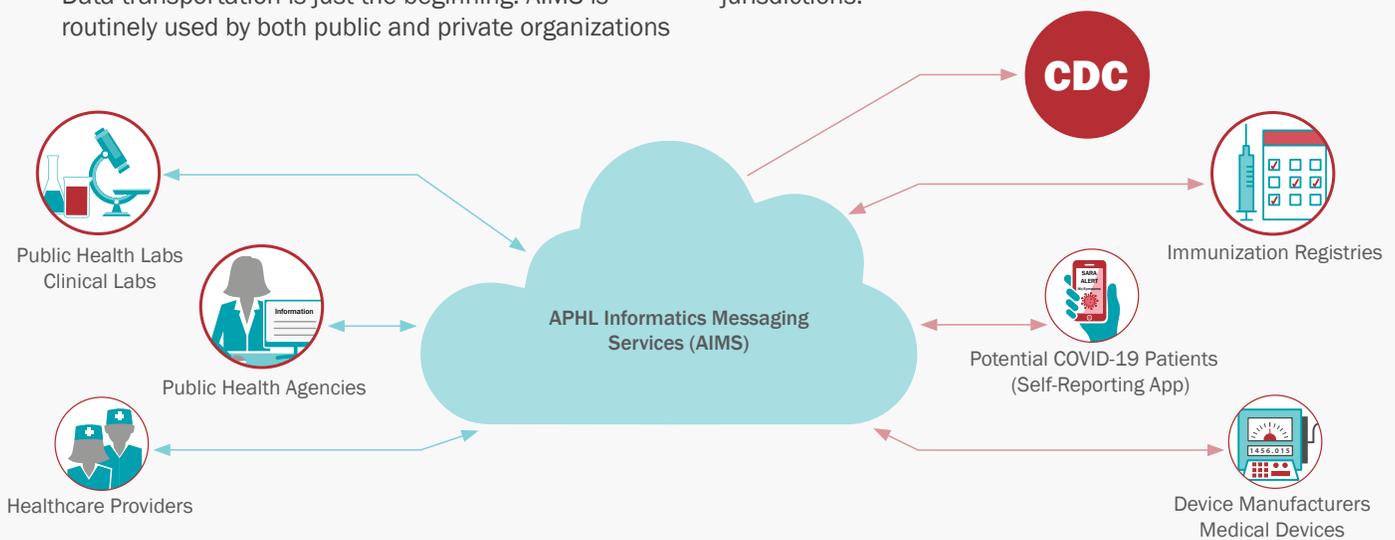
## How It Works

AIMS today is a secure, cloud-based platform that transports, translates, validates and hosts electronic data. Flu test results are just one type of information carried over the platform. Each month, AIMS receives millions of messages and transforms them into the recipient's preferred format and coding system across a variety of public health domains.

Data transportation is just the beginning. AIMS is routinely used by both public and private organizations

to host tools and share services. In the spirit of data modernization, AIMS also serves as a place for users to develop and leverage innovative technical solutions.

AIMS is now the default solution for public health communication and used by federal agencies, commercial laboratories, hospitals, State Health Information Exchanges and state public health jurisdictions.



## COVID-19 Response

As the threat of COVID-19 became imminent in late January, APHL's informatics team developed vocabulary and coding for laboratories that allowed labs to easily generate messages and share data about the virus in a standardized manner. At the same time, APHL provided direct technical assistance to laboratories and rapidly converted a channel typically used to send flu data into a COVID-19 data superhighway.

This tremendous effort, which under normal circumstances could have taken a year, allowed 55 labs and agencies to fully onboard and transmit COVID-19 test results to CDC within a month.

[www.aphl.org/AIMS](http://www.aphl.org/AIMS)  
[www.aphl.org/COVID19-data](http://www.aphl.org/COVID19-data)

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