



ELR (Electronic Laboratory Reporting)

Origin Story

By law, laboratories must report certain conditions discovered during testing to state and local public health departments. Officials use this data to respond effectively and quickly to potential outbreaks.

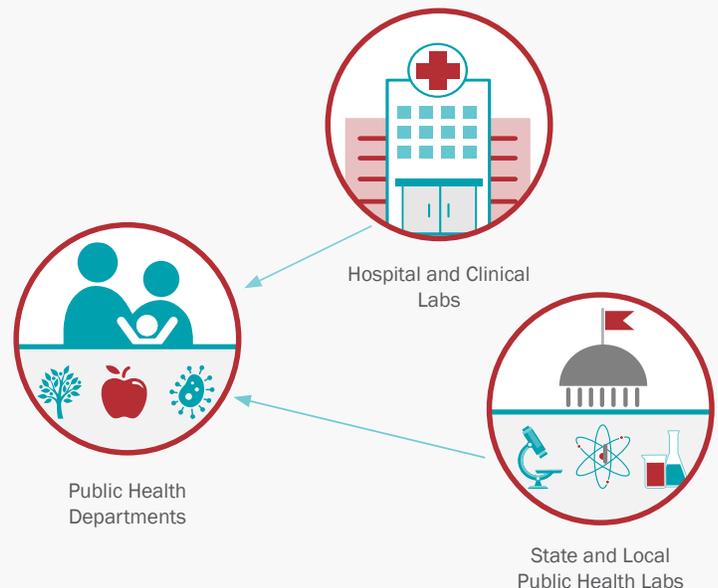
Historically, labs could only mail or fax their reports. Each transmission was time- and labor-intensive. Follow-ups, errors and inconsistent formatting caused more delays.

As technology advanced, states evolved a new method of data sharing, called electronic laboratory reporting (ELR), to more efficiently meet stringent regulations. ELR dramatically improves the ease, speed and accuracy of data transmission nationwide.

How It Works

ELR applies to any sort of electronic transmission delivering required reports for reportable conditions to public health departments from laboratories, including hospital, private and public health.

ELR produces more complete information than mailing and faxing and is exponentially faster and more accurate. Upon discovery of a reportable condition, lab personnel complete standardized reports with fields organized to gather essential details and data. Essential fields in the report are required, so public health departments are less likely to request follow-up information. With no manual data entry, there's a lower chance for errors or misinterpreting information on handwritten submission forms.



COVID-19 Response

ELR has enabled CDC to receive comprehensive coronavirus data in near real-time to inform next steps and produce potentially life-saving recommendations.

The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) has enabled the reporting of COVID-19 data through its AIMS platform. Using AIMS, public health agencies can submit essential data to CDC for detailed analysis, visualization and surveillance. This data provides a comprehensive national snapshot of the testing landscape and is being used federally to help support the safe re-opening of communities.

www.aphl.org/COVID19-data

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