

As Introduced

**133rd General Assembly
Regular Session
2019-2020**

H. B. No. 624

Representative Grendell

**Cosponsors: Representatives Wiggam, Romanchuk, Riedel, Roemer, Stein, Keller,
Cross**

A BILL

To require the reporting and release of certain 1
COVID-19 testing and related information and to 2
declare an emergency. 3

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. (A) As used in this section, "health care 4
provider" has the same meaning as in section 3701.23 of the 5
Revised Code. 6

(B) During the period of the emergency declared by 7
Executive Order 2020-01D, issued on March 9, 2020, due to COVID- 8
19: 9

(1) (a) In addition to reporting the existence of COVID-19 10
as required by actions taken pursuant to division (B) (5) of 11
section 3701.23 of the Revised Code, boards of health, health 12
authorities or officials, health care providers, and coroners or 13
medical examiners shall promptly report to the Department of 14
Health each COVID-19 test that is administered, along with all 15
of the following: 16

(i) The date the test was administered; 17

(ii) The zip code of residence of the individual tested 18
or, if unknown or not located in this state, the zip code of the 19
location where the test was administered; 20

(iii) Indication of whether the individual tested resides 21
in a congregate setting, such as a nursing home, residential 22
care facility, hospital, or prison and, if so, identification of 23
the congregate setting. 24

(b) A reporter under division (B) (1) (a) of this section 25
shall promptly update its report to the Department with all of 26
the following: 27

(i) The results of the test, whether positive or negative, 28
and the date the results were confirmed; 29

(ii) If the reporter is a hospital, the date of admission 30
to the hospital for the treatment of COVID-19 and the date of 31
discharge or date of death, as applicable; 32

(iii) Each death resulting from COVID-19, the date of the 33
death, the age of the deceased, and whether the death was 34
attributable solely to COVID-19 or there were additional 35
complication factors, and, if there were, identification of the 36
complication factors. 37

(c) No person shall knowingly fail to comply with the 38
reporting requirements established under divisions (B) (1) (a) and 39
(b) of this section. 40

(d) The reports required under divisions (B) (1) (a) and (b) 41
of this section shall be submitted in the manner the Director of 42
Health prescribes. 43

(e) Information reported under divisions (B) (1) (a) and (b) 44
of this section that is protected health information pursuant to 45

section 3701.17 of the Revised Code shall be released only in 46
accordance with that section. 47

(f) Any person who violates division (B)(1)(c) of this 48
section is subject to the same fines and criminal penalties as a 49
person who violates division (C) of section 3701.23 of the 50
Revised Code, as set forth in sections 3701.571 and 3701.99 of 51
the Revised Code. 52

(2) All of the following apply when the Department of 53
Health releases information related to cases of COVID-19: 54

(a) Each day's figures must accurately reflect the 55
information reported to the Department as of the date of the 56
release; 57

(b) The information shall be released in the form of a 58
chart, table, or similar format that includes all of the 59
following, broken down by zip code: 60

(i) The number of individuals tested for COVID-19 each 61
day; 62

(ii) The number of positive test results and the date each 63
positive test was confirmed; 64

(iii) The number of negative test results and the date 65
each negative test was confirmed; 66

(iv) The total number of individuals who have been 67
hospitalized for COVID-19 as well as the number of current 68
hospitalizations related to COVID-19; 69

(v) The number of deaths, by date, that are attributable 70
solely to COVID-19, as well as the age ranges for the deceased; 71

(vi) The number of deaths, by date, that involve 72

individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 but there were 73
additional complication factors, including identification of 74
those complication factors. 75

(c) In addition to releasing the information identified in 76
division (B) (2) (b) of this section, the Department shall release 77
COVID-19 infection rates for congregate settings such as nursing 78
homes, residential care facilities, hospitals, and prisons. 79

(d) The information identified in divisions (B) (2) (b) and 80
(c) of this section shall include only confirmed cases of COVID- 81
19, not cases that are probable or presumed. The Department 82
shall separately release the information identified in divisions 83
(B) (2) (b) and (c) of this section as it relates to probable or 84
presumed cases of COVID-19, and shall include the basis for 85
determining the case to be probable or presumed. 86

(e) When modeling projections related to COVID-19 are 87
released by the Department, the Department shall release all 88
supporting information and documents, including a margin of 89
error. The Department shall release any adjustments to the 90
modeling projections. 91

Section 2. This act is hereby declared to be an emergency 92
measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public 93
peace, health, and safety. The reason for such necessity is to 94
address urgent needs of the state arising from the COVID-19 95
outbreak. Therefore, this act shall go into immediate effect. 96