

Georgia DPH COVID-19 Status Report – What's New?

April 15, 2022

Beginning April 15, the Georgia DPH COVID-19 Status Report will move to a weekly update on Wednesdays (instead of daily) at 3:00 p.m. The first weekly update will be on Wednesday, April 20.

Additionally, on March 8, HHS and CDC announced revisions to HHS COVID-19 laboratory reporting guidance, which went into effect on April 4, 2022. Previous guidance required all SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) test results to be reported, regardless of test type or if the test was positive or negative. Test types included both rapid and conventional molecular tests (e.g., PCR), antigen, and antibody tests when administered by a healthcare provider. The new guidance still requires positive and negative molecular test results be reported (e.g., PCR), however, facilities no longer need to report negative results from antigen or rapid PCR tests and they no longer need to report any positive or negative results for antibody tests or at home tests.

Due to this update and the change in data received as a result, Georgia DPH will be updating how we display COVID-19 test numbers on our Georgia DPH COVID-19 Status Report and in the data available for download. It is important to note that as the testing practices and reporting requirements change, testing and case counts and metrics will be impacted.

Updated Site Features

The following columns will be removed from the COVID-19 Testing table:

- PCR/Molecular Reported Today
- Total Antigen
- Total Antibody (Serology)

The following variables will be removed from the download data files as of April 4, 2022:

- The variables *agtest*, *abtest* and *abpos* will be removed from the file *Total_testing*
- The variable *total_tests* will be removed from the file *Summary_totals*
- The variables *Antigen tests performed* and *Running total of all antigen tests* will be removed from *Pcr_antigen* and *Pcr_antigen_col*
- Note: The historical data will be available in archived files that will be available in the download zip file.