

**FISCAL NOTE
PRIVATE COST**

- I. Department Title:** Title 19 – Department of Health and Senior Services
Division Title: Division 20 – Division of Community and Public Health
Chapter Title: Chapter 20 – Communicable Diseases

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| Rule Number and Title: | 19 CSR 20-20.020 Reporting Infectious, Contagious, Communicable, or Dangerous Diseases |
| Type of Rulemaking: | Amendment |

II. SUMMARY OF FISCAL IMPACT

| Estimate of the number of entities by class which would likely be affected by the adoption of the rule: | Classification by types of the business entities which would likely be affected: | Estimate in the aggregate as to the cost of compliance with the rule by the affected entities: |
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| 25,672 | Hospitals, Laboratories, Clinics, Pharmacies, Schools | \$805,280 |
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III. WORKSHEET

The proposed rule would have an estimated aggregate annual cost of \$805,280 across all laboratories or other entities (e.g. hospitals, clinics, and schools) that perform COVID-19 tests. This is derived from 542,585 negative tests reported to DHSS in FY21 with the estimation that each negative test reported took five minutes of staff time and that each lab tech is paid \$17.81 an hour.

$$[(542,585 \times 5) / 60] = 45,215 \text{ hours (rounded)}$$

$$45,215 \times \$17.81 = \$805,280 \text{ (rounded up)}$$

IV. ASSUMPTIONS

The proposed rule would require negative COVID-19 tests be submitted to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). Each negative test submitted that would otherwise not be submitted would require staff time for the laboratory or entity conducting the test. Although the time and cost for each individual test would be negligible, as a whole the time would result in a total cost exceeding \$500 for Missouri businesses.

Each entity reporting test results to the department has the option of reporting via an electronic or manual paper submission method. The electronic method is estimated to take approximately five minutes per submission, while the manual paper method is estimated to take fifteen to twenty minutes per submission. As the electronic method is available to every entity and the proposed rule would allow for the least burdensome method of submission for every reported negative test, the department assumes for the purposes of this fiscal estimate that all submissions will be electronic.

For the state fiscal year 2021 there were a total of 601,039 COVID tests reported to the DHSS. Of those test results, positive tests accounted for 58,454 results and 542,585 were negative results (these numbers are provisional and subject to change). The department cannot predict the number of COVID-19 tests that will be conducted in future months or years. As the last full fiscal year of data, the department assumes for the purposes of this estimate that future annual COVID-19 test numbers will be comparable to FY21.

Therefore, the department estimates that laboratories and other entities required to report tests in accordance with the proposed rule (such as hospitals, clinics, and schools) would expend approximately 45,215 additional hours in labor $(542,585 \times 5) / 60$. Based on information from a professional hiring platform, the average base pay of a laboratory technician in Missouri is approximately \$17.81 an hour. This would result in an estimated total salary cost across all Missouri laboratories and businesses of \$805,280 for reporting negative test results.