



June 24, 2020

Dear Healthcare Provider:

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (Department) is seeking to ensure that critical COVID-19 patient data on sexual orientation and gender identity (SO/GI) is being collected at the point of care. This is a [top priority of the Wolf Administration](#), as the collection of this data will help inform public health policy decisions, drive health care delivery, and ultimately improve population health.

All Pennsylvanians deserve equal access to care, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, and SO/GI data collection helps ensure that members of the LGBTQ community have their health needs identified and addressed. This data will also help us better understand health disparities in this community so that health care services can be delivered appropriately, and it can help detect if different populations are having different outcomes.

Just as you collect race and ethnicity data from your patients, this data is equally essential for a complete public health response to COVID-19. The Department requests that you collect and report SO/GI data for all COVID-19 patients.

For more information on the COVID-19 response in Pennsylvania, please visit the [Pennsylvania Department of Health website](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RL Levine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Rachel L. Levine, M.D.
Secretary of Health
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania