



April 22, 2020

Michael Bugg, MD  
American Esoteric Laboratories  
1701 Century Center Cove  
Memphis, TN 38134

Dear Dr. Bugg,

You may be familiar with the “Electronic Laboratory Reporting” (ELR) mechanism whereby laboratories report the results of legally notifiable diseases to the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH). This is a system that is being widely used across the state, with good success. I understand that American Esoteric Laboratories has been so far unable to participate in ELR with TDH. I think that the COVID-19 outbreak response demonstrates how critical it is to have rapid and complete transmission of reliable data to our Department. We do receive COVID-19 lab results from your facility but ELR implementation would allow for this process to be much more seamless and set us up for future success should another public health emergency arise. I would encourage you to give whatever support you can to the staff at American Esoteric Laboratories capable of making ELR reporting from your facilities a reality. As always, we stand ready to assist in any way we can. I realize that this is an incredibly busy time for all of us and appreciate your consideration of this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Lisa Piercey, MD, MBA, FAAP  
Commissioner  
Tennessee Department of Health

Cc kg/jd