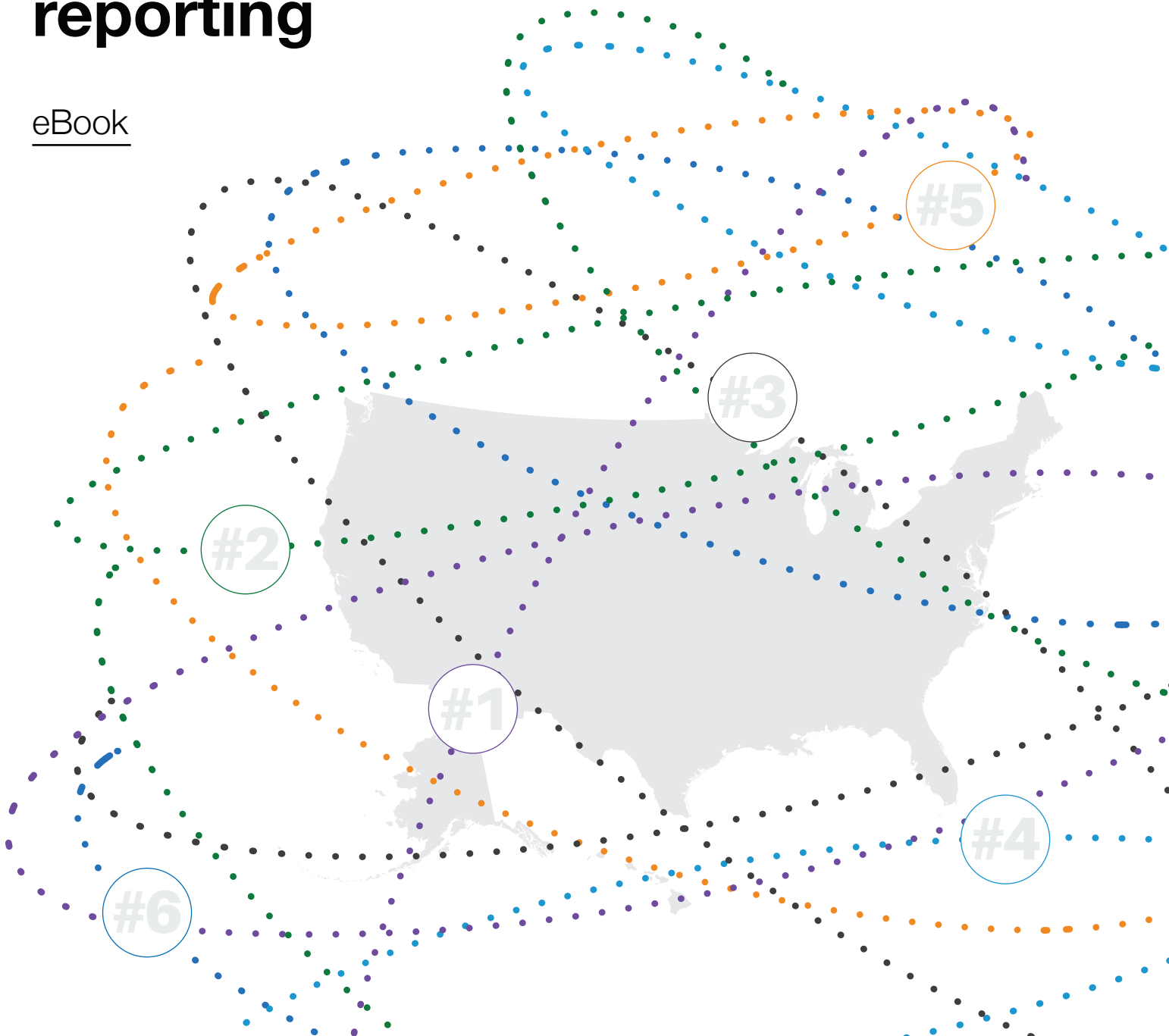




# Six misconceptions employers have around state-based reporting

eBook





Maintaining an accurate understanding and comprehensive control over the myriad of state-based individual healthcare mandate requirements can be difficult, even for the most vigilant of human resource teams.

And as your team tries to juggle all its expectations, it's important you're doing so with the right information.

Unfortunately for many companies, some of their best decisions are made based on information that includes misconceptions. There are several falsehoods surrounding your state reporting expectations, but the most common misconceptions are outlined in this eBook.

**Follow this guide to see if you or your company are operating under any of these misconceptions so you can course correct immediately to help avoid costly penalties.**



#1

MISCONCEPTION

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**“Individual mandate requirements don’t apply to companies if they don’t operate in that state.”**

➤ Get the facts

# #1

MISCONCEPTION

**“Individual mandate requirements don’t apply to companies if they don’t operate in that state.”**

## **TIP:**

**Employers should focus on where their employees live and not the physical address of the company location.**

## **FACTS:**

This is a very common misconception because many other laws and regulations only apply if your company is currently located in the state. State-based individual mandates are different, however.

Individual mandates are tied to individuals, and because of that, companies are required to report on employees who reside in a state with an individual mandate, regardless of the organization’s physical address. Thus, if your company borders a state with an individual mandate, you’re responsible to report on all employees who cross the border to come to work each morning. At the same time, if you have a national sales team, you are also required to report on any sales staff operating — and living — in states with individual mandates. You’ll also be expected to follow each state’s unique mandate guidelines.

However, it isn’t as easy as simply following the guidelines based on your employees’ home addresses. Different states define “resident” in different ways. Some states classify a qualified resident as a person who lives in the state, even for as few as 15 days in any month. Others qualify a person as a resident if they simply have a physical address or own property in the state, regardless of where they live.

States may also define residency for individual reporting purposes under different parameters than for domicile or marriage matters, so it’s important to understand exactly what is expected in the employee’s state. This will require examining state legislation, including applicable regulations and sub-regulatory guidelines provided by the associated state agency responsible for overseeing employer reporting requirements.



#2

MISCONCEPTION

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**“Compliance isn’t  
required if you are a  
government entity.”**

 [Get the facts](#)

# #2

MISCONCEPTION

**“Compliance isn’t required if you are a government entity.”**

## **TIP:**

**Employers should be mindful of all the residences your employees claim throughout the year.**

## **FACTS:**

This simply isn’t true. In fact, many of the same complications that apply to the first misconception can appear here too, including employees crossing the border to work. State requirements do not necessarily exempt government employers, especially when employees live part-time or full-time in another state. Schools face a unique challenge here, as they can sometimes face noncompliance instances surrounding teachers that live elsewhere during summer break. Depending on the state, this could trigger the requirement of state reporting for those individuals.

Once again, it is essential you are mindful of all the residences your employees claim throughout the year.



#3

MISCONCEPTION

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**“I can send my entire  
ACA filing to states  
upon completion.”**

 Get the facts

# #3

## MISCONCEPTION

**“I can send my entire ACA filing to states upon completion.”**

### TIP:

**Employers must be especially mindful that the information they submit is applicable to that state and only that state’s residents.**

### FACTS:

All states have data privacy laws that restrict the sharing of personal information regarding their residents, though the specifics of those laws can vary by jurisdiction. You should be mindful that forwarding your IRS files to applicable states could expose you to consumer privacy law violations.

Some states with employer reporting requirements may indicate they will accept an entire ACA file. However, it is the privacy laws of all other states that apply here. For example, California’s privacy rules do not allow an employer to send information on its residents to New Jersey unless specifically required. So even if New Jersey indicates they will accept an entire ACA file for their state reporting purposes, an employer could be out of compliance with California privacy laws if they send the state of New Jersey information on a California resident.

Risks of sharing employee data with states for employees that do not have a residency in that state can include:

- Data breach reporting to regulators
- Data breach regulator fines
- Required notification to the employee that their data has been breached
- And more

This means employers should not send their entire ACA filing to a state unless it only includes information on employees who meet that state’s residency requirements.





#4

MISCONCEPTION

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**“B Forms are a  
thing of the past.”**

 Get the facts

# #4

## MISCONCEPTION

**“B Forms are a thing of the past.”**

### **TIP:**

**Employers must furnish a Form 1095-B within 30 days to any responsible individual who requests one.**

### **FACTS:**

While the federal government declared late in the year that employers did not have to print and deliver B Forms to their employees for the 2019 tax year, those forms still had to be filed with the IRS.

Since then, many companies have mistakenly taken this one-time instance to be an indication of policy going forward. This is not true. Employers may still be required by the IRS to print and deliver B Forms outside the 2019 tax year. And if such a policy does change permanently, it's important to remember that individual states, such as California and New Jersey, still continue to require that such forms are sent to resident employees.

In addition, employers must also continue to meet several other requirements, including prominently posting a notice on their website notifying responsible individuals that they can receive a copy of their 2019 Form 1095-B upon request. This request must also include an email address and physical address where the request may be sent. Employers must also post a telephone number of responsible individuals that employees can use to contact the reporting entity with questions.

Finally, employers must also furnish a 2019 Form 1095-B within 30 days to any responsible individual who makes such a request. The 30-day requirement begins on the date of the request receipt.



#5

MISCONCEPTION

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**“Requirements  
are the same in  
every state.”**

 [Get the facts](#)

# #5

MISCONCEPTION

“Requirements are the same in every state.”

## TIP:

**Increasing complexity is leading to a rise in misunderstandings, so it's important that employers know all the facts.**

## FACTS:

While many state-based mandates carry similarities to the original federal mandate, they often include their own nuances.

Washington D.C. and New Jersey requirements may look like the federal mandate, but they have state specific filing and submission requirements.

For example, an employer providing health coverage to residents in D.C. are required to submit Forms 1094 and 1095-B and Forms 1094 and 1095-C in a .txt format. While New Jersey employers need to submit their forms in an XML format.

Massachusetts can fine employers that do not file, a \$50 penalty per individual form — up to a \$50,000 maximum.

California has published that they may fine employers \$50 for each unreported individual, with no maximum and the state has a later filing deadline of March 31.

Rhode Island is following the federal 1095 form guidance and their deadline to report to the state is Jan. 31.

Vermont does have an Individual Mandate as of Jan. 1, 2020, but employer reporting is not expected in 2020 at this time.

You can learn more about these individual nuances in Health e(fx)'s eBook: [“Your state-by-state guide to individual mandate expectations.”](#)



#6

MISCONCEPTION

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**“Health reform reporting compliance will get easier.”**

 [Get the facts](#)

# #6

MISCONCEPTION

“Health reform reporting compliance will get easier.”

## TIP:

**Employers should leverage a reputable vendor to track the different state requirements to help them remain compliant in all states.**

## FACTS:

By now it should be obvious that this is a misconception. In fact, the truth may be just the opposite. As more and more states continue to adopt their own individual mandate, the number of rules and regulations companies must abide by grows exponentially.

Instead of counting on government legislation to simplify healthcare compliance expectations, companies are better suited to find a vendor that can manage the process for them from start to finish - including ensuring only information on applicable residents are sent to the state.

As the leader in health reform compliance and workforce analytics solutions, Health e(fx) stands ready to support companies in managing their coverage expectations and understanding challenging state-based guidelines.

We offer solutions to employers and partners for New Jersey, Rhode Island, California and Washington D.C. reporting, that include corrections processing and meeting state privacy and compliance requirements.



## We offer a state stand alone reporting solution

Build your own state individual mandate reporting solution with just a phone call.

Private label your own California, Rhode Island, New Jersey and/or Washington D.C. solution from Health e(x).

We offer state individual mandate solutions for PEOs and payroll, tax, and benefit administrators that don't want to invest in continuous technology updates to support state reporting, particularly with an upcoming election that may result in even more change. You don't need to use Health e(fx) for ACA compliance, unless you want to – just choose your states, and you'll have a new solution to offer your clients. It all starts with a phone call or an email.

[Contact us today](#) to learn more about how Health e(fx) can simplify your state mandate goals and eliminate the misconceptions that are hindering your objectives.

