

# GISAID CLI2

## Version 2 Command Line Interface (CLI) for batch uploading

### Description

CLI2 is version 2 of the Command Line Interface (CLI) for batch submissions of meta- and sequence-data to GISAID. Presently, the software allows upload to the EpiCoV database, but future iterations will allow uploading to any of the GISAID databases (EpiFlu, EpiRSV, etc.).

Queries, bug reports, feature requests, etc., should be emailed to [clisupport\[at\]gisaid.org](mailto:clisupport[at]gisaid.org).

Use of this package requires some knowledge of the command line. To gain some basic skills using the \*nix command line, please see e.g., [here](#)

### Installation

#### pip

Download the compressed archive, then do:

```
1 tar zxvpf gisaid_cli2.tgz
2 pip install --user ./gisaid_cli2
3 cli2 -h
```

#### uninstall

```
1 pip uninstall cli2 -y
```

#### conda

##### install

Download the latest miniconda installer from <https://docs.conda.io/en/latest/miniconda.html> and follow miniconda installation instructions.

```
1 cd gisaid_cli2
2 conda init --all
3 export PATH=${PATH}:/bin:/usr/bin:/sbin:/usr/sbin
4 conda update -y conda
5 conda env create -f environment.yml
6 conda activate cli2_env
7 cli2 -h
```

##### uninstall

```
1 conda remove --name cli2_env --all
```

### Example Usage

#### Get help, top level

The software tool is run with the `cli2` command. To get help, trail any command with `-h`.

```
1 cli2 -h
2 usage: cli2 [-h] ...
3
4 Command Line Interface (CLI) v2 for uploading sequence and metadata to GISAID.
5
6 optional arguments:
7 -h, --help    show this help message and exit
8
```

```

9 Sub-commands help:
10
11     authenticate
12         Write the authentication token.
13     upload      Upload sequences and metadata.
14     version      Show version and exit.

```

There are three sub-commands are available to the user:

- cli2 authenticate (refer to section 1, below)
- cli2 upload (see section 2)
- cli2 version (see section 3)

## 1. Authenticate

Before uploading, you will need to authenticate your connection. This is done by creating an authentication token with `cli2 authenticate`. The generated token is specific to a client-ID, username and password combination. For running test uploads, use the test client-ID: TEST-EA76875B00C3. **To obtain a live client-ID, email [clisupport\[at\]gisaid.org](mailto:clisupport[at]gisaid.org).** To reset a token, simply delete the token file and re-run `cli2 authenticate`. If the password field is left blank when running `cli2 authenticate`, the program will ask for it interactively (thus avoiding storing the password in the terminal history). By default, the authentication token file will be `./gisaid.authtoken`; however, you may specify a different path and filename using the `--token` option. Authentication tokens are valid for 100 days. New folders may contain new tokens. Old tokens may be safely deleted.

NB: Keep your unique client-ID in a safe place. Before authenticating with your client-ID, you will need to delete the `gisaid.authtoken` created at the TEST run.

To get help on the authentication sub-command, do `cli2 authenticate -h`:

```

1  usage: cli2 authenticate [-h] [--database {EpiCoV,EpiFlu,EpiRSV}] [--token TOKEN] --
   ↪ username USERNAME
2                               [--password PASSWORD] --client_id CLIENT_ID [--proxy PROXY
   ↪ ] [--debug] [--log LOG]
3
4  Write the authentication token.
5
6  optional arguments:
7  -h, --help                show this help message and exit
8  --database {EpiCoV,EpiFlu,EpiRSV}
   ↪                        Target GISAID database. (default: EpiCoV)
9
10 --token TOKEN              Authentication token. (default: ./gisaid.authtoken)
11 --username USERNAME       Your GISAID username. (default: None)
12 --password PASSWORD       Your GISAID password. Leave blank on shared computers. (default:
   ↪ None)
13 --client_id CLIENT_ID     Submitter's client-ID. Email clisupport@gisaid.org to request
   ↪ client-ID. (default: None)
14
15 --proxy PROXY              Proxy-configuration for HTTPS-Request in the form: http(s)://
   ↪ username:password@proxy:port.
   ↪ (default: None)
16
17 --debug                    Switch off debugging information (dev purposes only). (default:
   ↪ True)
18 --log LOG                  All output logged here. (default: ./logfile.log)

```

## 2. Upload

There are test data in the cli2 repository at `cli2/data/{test.csv,test.fa}`. Before performing a test upload with these data:

- copy the example files to a working directory
- in the `test.csv` file, replace `yourusername` in the `submitter` column with your GISAID username
- replace `Anzark` in the `covv_virus_name` column with a random string of your choice; make the identical substitution in the `test.fa` nucleotide sequence headers (denoted by `>` characters.) The

fasta headers need to match exactly the covv\_virus\_name or the submission for the non-matched labels will not succeed.

After making and saving these changes, do:

```
1 cli2 upload --metadata test.csv --fasta test.fa
```

For the test upload, a message similar to the following will be printed by default to stdout and to ./ ↪ logfile.log:

```
1 missing_seq:      hCoV-19/x/x390/2021
2 epi_isl_id:       hCoV-19/Anzark/12/2021; EPI_ISL_4348356
3 epi_isl_id:       hCoV-19/Anzark/13/2021; EPI_ISL_4348357
4 epi_isl_id:       hCoV-19/Anzark/17/2021; EPI_ISL_4348358
5 epi_isl_id:       hCoV-19/Anzark/16/2021; EPI_ISL_4348359
6 validation_error: hCoV-19/Anzark/17/2021; validation_error; {"covv_virus_name": "
  ↪ already exists"}
7 validation_error: hCoV-19/x/x390/2021; validation_error; {"covv_sequence": "
  ↪ field_mandatory_error"}
8 epi_isl_id:       hCoV-19/Anzark/Melbourne473/2021; EPI_ISL_4348360
9 epi_isl_id:       hCoV-19/Anzark/Melbourne476/2021; EPI_ISL_4348361
10 epi_isl_id:       hCoV-19/Anzark/Melbourne477/2021; EPI_ISL_4348362
11 epi_isl_id:       hCoV-19/Anzark/Melbourne475/2021; EPI_ISL_4348363
12 upload_count:     submissions uploaded: 8
13 failed_count:     submissions failed: 2
14
15 Total runtime (HRS:MIN:SECS): 0:00:02.668939
```

Run logs will be saved to logfile.log with metadata for failed uploads appended failed.out.

The output above shows attempted submission of sequences already in the destination will result in validation error:, with "covv\_virus\_name": "already exists". Additional runs will append logs to existing logs by default. All TEST submissions will be sent to a test-server and will not be released to the GISAID EpiCoV-live system.

All EPI\_ISL accessions assigned at the test upload stage are dummy accessions, which should not be used in any publications. EPI\_ISLs assigned under your live client-ID will be 'live' accession numbers which may be used in publications.

For large submissions, it is recommended to run the upload from inside a tmux or screen window.

You can manage any successful submissions, which are still in pre-release, by going to the "My Unreleased" tab:



Figure 1: "my unreleased"

To get help on the upload sub-command, do cli2 upload -h:

```
1 usage: cli2 upload [-h] [--database {EpiCoV,EpiFlu,EpiRSV}] [--token TOKEN] --metadata
  ↪ METADATA --fasta FASTA
2                  [--frameshift {catch_all,catch_novel,catch_none}] [--failed FAILED]
  ↪ [--proxy PROXY] [--debug] [--log LOG]
3
4 Perform upload of sequences and metadata to GISAID's curation zone.
5
6 optional arguments:
7 -h, --help            show this help message and exit
8 --database {EpiCoV,EpiFlu,EpiRSV}
9                       Target GISAID database. (default: EpiCoV)
10 --token TOKEN         Authentication token. (default: ./gisaid.authtoken)
```

```

11 --metadata METADATA    The csv-formatted metadata file. (default: None)
12 --fasta FASTA         The fasta-formatted nucleotide sequences file. (default: None)
13 --frameshift {catch_all,catch_novel,catch_none}
14                       'catch_none': catch none of the frameshifts and release
15                       ↪ immediately; 'catch_all': catch all frameshifts and
16                       ↪ require email
17                       confirmation; 'catch_novel': catch novel frameshifts and require
18                       ↪ email confirmation. (default: catch_all)
19 --failed FAILED       Name of CSV output to contain failed records. (default: ./failed.
16                       ↪ out)
17 --proxy PROXY         Proxy-configuration for HTTPS-Request in the form: http(s)://
18                       ↪ username:password@proxy:port. (default: None)
19 --debug               Switch off debugging information (dev purposes only). (default:
16                       ↪ True)
17 --log LOG             All output logged here. (default: ./upload.log)

```

## 2.1 Frameshifts

The option `--frameshift` is used to set notification preferences for detected “open reading frame” shifts, or “frameshifts”. The choices for the `--frameshift` option corresponds with options in the drop down menu in the graphic web front-end batch upload submission page. The choices are:

```

1 catch_all = "Notify me about ALL DETECTED FRAMESHIFTS in this submission for
2               ↪ reconfirmation of affected sequences".
3 catch_novel = "Notify me only about NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED FRAMESHIFTS in this
4               ↪ submission for reconfirmation of affected sequences"
5 catch_none = "I confirm ANY FRAMESHIFTS in this submission and request their release
6               ↪ without confirmation by a curator"

```

For choice `catch_none`, curators will not notify submitters of frameshifts in the sequence data: records will be released immediately to the live database if all other QC metrics meet release criteria.

Choices `catch_all` (default) and `catch_novel` will result in emails being sent to the submitter, requiring confirmation of frameshifts before release of records to the live database.

If a submission fails part-way through upload, re-run the `cli2 upload` command and the submission should continue from at or near the interruption.

For the correct csv and fasta file formats, consult the GISAID EpiCoV website. For this, login to [gisaid.org](https://gisaid.org), then go to EpiCoV -> Upload -> Batch Upload -> Download Instructions and Template. The first time batch upload is clicked, the user will need to solve a CAPTCHA. Example data formats are additionally provided at `cli2/data/{test.csv,test.fa}`.

## 3. version

To get the software version number, do:

```

1 cli2 version

```

This user manual is concurrent with version:

```

1 cli2 version:    2.1.2

```

## Support

Please direct all support enquiries to [clisupport\[at\]gisaid.org](mailto:clisupport[at]gisaid.org).

## FAQ

*How do I set preferences for frameshifts notifications for my upload?* Use the `--frameshifts` option as outlined in section **2.1 Frameshifts**.

*I have uploaded via the command line with no error messages, my sequences are not visible in my ↪ unreleased folder or in the live database. Why?* Most likely, the submitter is using the TEST client-ID.

To upload to the live database, please request a client-ID at [clisupport\[at\]gisaid.org](mailto:clisupport[at]gisaid.org) and re-run `cli2 authenticate` with the live client-ID before re-attempting upload.

*What does the error “submitter\_invalid” mean? Note, I have created a \*.authtoken file successfully and the upload seemed to be running.* The submitter column in the metadata.csv file contains a username that is not authenticated for use with the username used to create the \*.authtoken file. To fix, either: 1) email [clisupport\[at\]gisaid.org](mailto:clisupport[at]gisaid.org) to add the username/s to the list of authorised usernames for your account (e.g., if you are uploading on behalf of other users); 2) change the username to be equal to the username used to create the \*.authtoken file, or; 3) re-create the \*.authtoken file using `cli2`   
↪ `authenticate`, with `--username` equal to the value in the metadata.csv file.

*On attempting to upload data, what does the error `validation_error;{"covv_location": "format_error"}` mean?* This is caused by incorrect `covv_location` formatting. The following are acceptable: `continent/country/region` and `continent/country/region/sub-region`, but; `country/region/sub-region`, `country/region` and `region/sub-region` are not. Hence, `Europe/`   
↪ `Germany/Bavaria/Munich` and `Europe/Germany/Bavaria` are acceptable, but `Mexico/Jalisco/`   
↪ `Puerto Vallarta` needs to be corrected to `North America/Mexico/Jalisco/Puerto Vallarta`. Spaces and hyphens in the location are allowed.

*What does `validation_error;{"covv_sequence": "field_mandatory_error"}` mean?* This is caused by any of two possibilities. The first cause is actual missing sequence data, so the fasta file contains the sequence header (denoted by the `>` character) but no sequence data after the header. The second cause is a sequence indicated by `covv_virus_name` is in the \*.csv file but not in the \*.fa. Consult the stdout, the log and failed files to further diagnose the problem. If all else fails, email [clisupport\[at\]gisaid.org](mailto:clisupport[at]gisaid.org) for further assistance.

*I have submitted sequences for which the metadata or sequence data need correcting. How do I correct this?* If the data were recently submitted, make the changes in My Unreleased. Otherwise, email [service\[at\]gisaid.org](mailto:service[at]gisaid.org) with the EPI\_ISL accessions and the fields to update as a table. Add additional instructions in the email body to assist curators to make the changes as requested.

*I have re-infection samples from a patient for which I have previously submitted sequences. How do I link my new record to previous records?* In the `covv_add_host_info` column, add a note to reference the EPI\_ISL accession of the previous record.

*How do I add additional information to the location field?* Use the `covv_add_location` field to add the extra data (e.g., LatLong, suburb, postcode etc.).