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Acting Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

September 13, 2019

Dear Laboratory Colleagues,

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), in consultation with the California Conference of Local Health Officers, recently updated Title 17 section 2505 of the California Code of Regulations. Section 2505 specifies that laboratories must report all laboratory testing results suggestive of diseases of public health importance to the local health department within a specified timeframe. A subsection of 2505 specifies isolates or specimens that must be submitted to the public health laboratory. The updated 2505 laboratory reportable diseases list is posted on the CDPH Division of Communicable Disease Control website (link: [Reportable Diseases and Conditions](#)).

This letter is to inform you of these changes and to remind you of the reporting requirements outlined in this section. These changes, which go into effect October 1, 2019, are summarized below.

Changes to List of Reportable Results

- The following diseases have been **added** to subsection (e)(2); laboratory results suggestive of these diseases must now be reported to the local health department within one working day.
 - **Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (Carbapenemase-producing)**
 - **Influenza**
 - **Latent Tuberculosis Infection identified by a positive laboratory test** (including positive interferon gamma release assays)
 - **Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)**
- The following diseases have been **removed** from subsection (e)(2)
 - ***Entamoeba histolytica***
- The following diseases have been **reworded** for clarity
 - ***Mycobacterium tuberculosis*** now Tuberculosis, including ***Mycobacterium tuberculosis*** complex
 - ***Neisseria meningitidis*** (sterile site isolate) now ***Neisseria meningitidis*** (sterile site isolate or eye specimen)



Changes to Isolate and Specimen Submissions

- The following specimen has been **added**:
 - ***Neisseria meningitidis*** eye specimens
- The following specimens have been **removed**:
 - **Measles** immunoglobulin M (IgM)-positive sera
- The requirements for the following specimen has been **changed**:
 - Submission of **HIV-1/2** antigen or antibody reactive sera or plasma now upon request from CDPH (previously required for all specimens)
- The following changes apply to ***Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex**:
 - If ***Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex** is identified by molecular testing but no culture isolate is available, a specimen available to the laboratory must be submitted to the public health laboratory upon request from the local health officer, public health laboratory or CDPH.
 - Results of molecular assays for drug resistance must be reported.
 - Resistant cultures must be submitted as soon as available (previously no timeframe).

Changes to Reporting Requirements

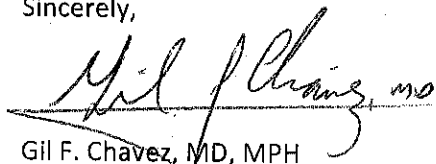
- Laboratories must report initial findings, as well as any subsequent findings.
- Molecular and pathologic testing is included in types of testing that must be reported.
- Negative results must be reported when requested by CDPH or the local health officer.
- Reporting and isolate/specimen submission is now based on where the patient resides (previously where healthcare provider was located). If patient residence is unknown, the report must be submitted to the local health officer where provider is located.
- Laboratories must report to the state electronic reporting system (CalREDIE) or a local electronic reporting system that is linked to the state electronic reporting system. Fax is no longer a routine reporting option. Laboratories must report by other means if requested by CDPH or the local health officer.
- Reports must be submitted in a format specified by CDPH.
- Animal specimens are no longer limited to only rabies and plague. For the testing of conditions reportable in animals, animal specimens now include anthrax, brucellosis, plague, rabies, tularemia, and viral hemorrhagic fever agents.

Changes to Content of Reports

- All laboratory reports to public health must now include pregnancy status, patient address, patient date of birth, anatomic site of specimen collection, and diagnosis codes.
- Reporting of age to public health is no longer required.

Thank you for your timely and complete reporting of laboratory data on notifiable diseases. You are a vital part of California's ability to detect and timely respond to infectious disease threats.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gil F. Chavez, MD, MPH". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Gil F. Chavez, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist
Deputy Director for Infectious Diseases
California Department of Public Health