Indiana Communicable Disease Reporting Updates

Indiana Department of Health

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why are these changes being made to Indiana's Communicable Disease Rule, and why now?

A: The changes to the Indiana Communicable Disease (CD) Rule (410 IAC) have been implemented to streamline reporting timeframes, thus simplifying reporting and aligning reporting timeframes with public health response. Additionally, the creation of external documents will allow for updates and changes to be made more easily in the future, ensuring Indiana stays up-to-date with national guidance.

Q: When do these communicable disease reporting changes take effect?

A: Changes will go into effect April 1.

Q: What are the changes to the reporting timeframes?

A: Reporting timeframes have been streamlined to two options:
- Immediately
- Within One Working Day

Q: Are all diseases previously reportable within 24 hours, 72 hours, or five business days now reportable within one working day?

A: The majority of diseases previously reportable within 24 hours, 72 hours, or five business days have been changed to report within one working day. However, please refer to the [Indiana Reportable Disease list for Healthcare Providers and Hospitals](#) for more information. The comprehensive list of diseases is categorized according to reporting timeframes.

Q: Why are there now two lists when there was only one before?

A: The creation of two lists (Indiana Reportable Disease List for Healthcare Providers and Hospitals and Indiana Reportable Result/Pathogen List for Laboratories) is to differentiate between provider/hospital reportable disease and laboratory reportable results or pathogens. A patient diagnosed with a reportable disease may have multiple reportable items – the disease itself, reportable by the provider, or hospital and a laboratory result/pathogen, reportable by the laboratory.

Q: Were any reportable diseases modified in scope?

A: Yes, two diseases and one group of diseases were modified in scope:
- Carbapenemase-Producing Organisms (CPO)
    - Previously only Carbapenemase-Producing Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CP-CRE) was reported to IDOH.

- o CPO will expand CP-CRE to include other carbapenamase-producing organisms, such as *Acinetobacter baumannii* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa.*
- o Additionally, updated case definitions for screening specimens and clinical specimens are as follows:
  - Screening specimens- A screening case is a person with a CPO identified in a swab collected for the purpose of screening regardless of the site of collection (most likely a rectal screening).
  - Clinical specimens- A clinical case is a person with a CPO identified from a clinical specimen collected for the purpose of diagnosing or treating disease during the normal course of care.
- Vancomycin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (VRSA) and Vancomycin intermediate Staphylococcus aureus (VISA)
  - o Previously Staphylococcus aureus, vancomycin resistance level of MIC ≥ 8 µg/mL or severe Staphylococcus aureus in a previously healthy person.
- Arboviral diseases were re-grouped to be listed together under arboviral rather than by individual name, reportable within one working day.
  - o Eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEEV) disease is the exception, which is immediately reportable.

Q: Were any reportable diseases removed from the list completely?
A: Yes, three diseases are no longer reportable:
- Cysticercosis (*Taenia solium*)
- Typhus, endemic (flea-borne)
- Adverse events or complications due to smallpox vaccination or secondary transmission to others after vaccination

Q. How will these changes impact reporting methods for communicable diseases to the Indiana Department of Health?
A: Reporting methods for reportable diseases or reportable results/pathogens to the Indiana Department of Health have not changed.
For "Immediately" reportable diseases, complete the following two steps:
- o Step 1:
  - Call 317-233-7125
  - After hours: 317-233-1325
- o Step 2:
  - For users with NBS access, report with NBS morbidity report, here.
  - Those without NBS access utilize the Communicable Disease Report Form or other condition-specific forms, here.
For "Within One Working Day" reportable diseases:
- For users with NBS access, report via NBS morbidity report, here.
- Those without NBS access utilize the Communicable Disease Report Form or other condition-specific forms, here.

Laboratories should report reportable results/pathogens via electronic laboratory reporting or fax, following current practices.

Q: Where can I find guidance about disease-specific reporting requirements?
A: Visit the Communicable Disease Reporting page here to find information about condition-specific reporting requirements. Click on the disease name within the table to locate the document. These documents will become available spring 2023.

Q: What information do I need to complete an NBS morbidity report?
A: Refer to the disease's reporting guidance documents for specific reporting details and additional documentation to include here.

Q: What steps should I take if I fax in a Confidential Report of Communicable Diseases form but get an error fax message?
A: If you received an error message follow these steps to resolve common issues:
    1. Verify that you have entered the correct fax number: 317-234-2812
    2. Wait at least 30 minutes then try resending.
    3. Call the Infectious Disease Epidemiology & Prevention Division at 317-233-7125 or 317-233-1325 (after hours, weekends, and holidays).

Q: What should I do if there is an error or delay in reporting?
A: If there are any errors or delays in reporting, please notify your field epidemiologist or call the Infectious Disease Epidemiology & Prevention Division at 317-233-7125 or 317-233-1325 (after hours, weekends, and holidays).

Q: Who should I contact with questions about reporting?
A: Contact your district field epidemiologist if you have questions about reporting. If you have a general question, please call the Infectious Disease Epidemiology & Prevention Division at 317-233-7125 or 317-233-1325 (after hours, weekends, and holidays).

Q: Where can I find the Indiana Reportable Disease list for Healthcare Providers and Hospitals?
A: Visit the Communicable Disease Reporting page here to find the newly updated Indiana Reportable Disease list for Healthcare Providers and Hospitals.

Q: Where can I find the newly updated Indiana Reportable Result/Pathogen list for Laboratories?
A: Visit the Communicable Disease Reporting page here to find the newly updated Indiana Reportable Pathogen/Result list for Laboratories.

Q: How will I be alerted of future updates or additions made to communicable disease reporting?

A: Updates and/or additions to communicable disease reporting will be communicated in a timely manner and sent through a variety of communication methods, including the Indiana Health Alert Network (IHAN) and the IDOH website.

Q: Where can I get the most up-to-date information on reportable diseases and results/pathogens in Indiana?

A: Visit the Communicable Disease Reporting page for the most up-to-date information on reportable diseases and results/pathogens in Indiana, here.