Infectious Diseases and Conditions Reportable by Health Care Providers
Frequently Asked Questions

[Why are some conditions notifiable to Public Health?](#)

[Does HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) allow reporting of protected health information (PHI) to Public Health?](#)

[What conditions are health care providers required to report?](#)

[Are only specifically listed notifiable conditions reportable to Public Health?](#)

[Should I await laboratory confirmation before reporting to Public Health?](#)

[How do I report a case to Public Health?](#)

[If a notifiable condition is reportable by the laboratory, do I still need to report a case?](#)

[Who is responsible for reporting positive results to Public Health if a specimen is sent to other reference laboratories, or patients are referred to other providers or laboratories for testing?](#)

[Rapid influenza tests are performed in my office, are these reportable by health care providers?](#)

Why are some conditions notifiable to Public Health?

As a health care provider, you are the eyes and ears of public health in Alaska. Reporting notifiable conditions makes it possible for us to detect outbreaks, prevent secondary transmission, and conduct disease surveillance. For some diseases, timely reporting can help prevent illness and death.

Per Alaska Statute (AS 18.15.370), the department shall maintain a list of reportable conditions that may be revised from time to time as the need arises or circumstances change. The most recent update to the Reportable Conditions list was made in 2023.

Does HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) allow reporting of protected health information (PHI) to Public Health?

Yes. HIPAA allows health care providers, health care facilities, and health plans to disclose protected health information to public health authorities for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability [45 CFR § 164.512(b)]. Patient consent is not required. More information on HIPAA is available here: http://www.epi.alaska.gov/bulletins/docs/rr2003_02.pdf

What conditions are health care providers required to report?

Categories of reportable conditions and associated report forms or methods are listed on this web page: https://health.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/Pages/pubs/conditions/default.aspx

Are only specifically listed notifiable conditions reportable to Public Health?

No. Notifiable conditions also include "unexplained critical illness or death", "rare diseases of public health significance" (such as a case of *Cryptococcus gattii* infection) and disease clusters of suspected foodborne or waterborne origin (for example, a single sporadic case of gastroenteritis due to norovirus is not reportable, but a cluster of ill children with vomiting and diarrhea after returning from camp would be).

Should I await laboratory confirmation before reporting to Public Health?

Not necessarily. Immediately report any suspected or confirmed public health emergencies to 907-269-8000 (during business hours) or 1-800-478-0084 (afterhours). Diseases classified as public health emergencies are listed in **bold** on page 8 of the Conditions Reportable Manual https://health.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/Documents/pubs/conditions/ConditionsReportable.pdf#page=8

Top

How do I report a case to Public Health?

When a reportable condition is diagnosed or suspected, necessary patient data may be collected on the appropriate report form. Public health should receive the report within 2 working days. All diseases which are considered public health emergencies should **immediately** be reported by telephone.

Reporting by Phone
- During business hours call 1-907-269-8000.
- After business hours, public health emergencies or urgent concerns should be reported by calling 1-800-478-0084.

Reporting by Confidential Fax
- Fax the report form to 1-907-561-4239.

Top

If a notifiable condition is reportable by the laboratory, do I still need to report a case?

Yes. Don't assume that a laboratory has reported a condition. Laboratories don't report suspected cases, clinically diagnosed cases, or clusters of illness that are not laboratory-confirmed. There is an obligation for healthcare providers (7 AAC 27.005) AND laboratories (7 AAC 27.007) to report suspicion or confirmation of some of the same diseases.

Top

Who is responsible for reporting positive results to Public Health if a specimen is sent to other reference laboratories, or patients are referred to other providers or laboratories for testing?

The initial ordering provider/facility, and any laboratory who has handled or processed the specimen, is obligated to report the positive result; the intent of overlapping reporting requirements is to ensure that no confirmed cases are overlooked. Some laboratories are, or will be, set-up to report to Public Health electronically to ease this burden. For labs not yet engaged in electronic reporting, paper copies can take days to reach Public Health. If you are not the ordering provider and are subsequently seeing a patient who has been diagnosed with a reportable condition, you are not obligated to report that condition again.

[Top](#)

Rapid influenza tests are performed in my office, are these reportable by health care providers?

Positive influenza test results are reportable by laboratories. If you are performing rapid influenza tests in your office, you are acting as a laboratory and should report positive results. In general, the methods of detection or testing for a reportable infection or conditions are not specified in the regulations; therefore, any tests conducted by health care providers or laboratories suggestive of a reportable condition is considered to be reportable.

Contact the Alaska Section of Laboratories if you have questions about CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments) certificates or waivers: https://health.alaska.gov/dph/Labs/Pages/clia/default.aspx.

[Top](#)

For more information, report forms, and contact information, please see:
https://health.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/Pages/pubs/conditions/default.aspx