

NEW JERSEY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
TITLE 8. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES
CHAPTER 57. COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

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SUBCHAPTER 2. REPORTING OF ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME AND INFECTION WITH HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS

8:57-2.1 Applicability; definition of AIDS, HIV infection, perinatal HIV exposure, and CD4 count

(a) The provisions of this subchapter are applicable to cases of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and infection with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The provisions of N.J.A.C. 8:57-1 shall not apply to any case of AIDS or infection with HIV.

(b) Laboratory results indicative of infection with HIV shall mean laboratory results showing the presence of HIV or components of HIV, or laboratory results showing the presence of antibodies to HIV, or results from laboratory tests conducted to measure the quantitative presence of HIV RNA (viral load tests), such as quantitative PCR tests. The Commissioner, Department of Health and Senior Services shall determine the laboratory tests or test results which indicate infection with HIV for the purpose of these rules. Any such determination shall take effect automatically, without modifying the definition of laboratory results indicative of infection with HIV.

(c) Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) means a condition affecting a person who has a reliably diagnosed disease that meets the criteria for AIDS specified by the Centers of Disease Control of the United States Public Health Services.

(d) A CD4 count means a count of lymphocytes containing the CD4 epitope as determined by the results of lymphocyte phenotyping. An absolute CD4 count means the number of lymphocytes containing the CD4 epitope per cubic millimeter. A relative CD4 count means the number of such cells expressed as a percentage of total lymphocytes.

(e) A child who is perinatally exposed to HIV is a child born to a woman who is known to be HIV infected at the time of delivery, either through HIV testing prior to or during her pregnancy, or who has been diagnosed as HIV infected through other medical evidence. A child may also be determined to be perinatally exposed through testing at or following birth.

8:57-2.2 Reporting HIV infection

(a) Every physician attending a person found to be infected with HIV, or ordering a test resulting in the diagnosis of HIV, shall, within 24 hours of receipt of a laboratory report indicating such a condition, or within 24 hours of making a diagnosis of HIV infection or AIDS, report in writing such condition directly to the Department of Health and Senior

Services on forms supplied by the Department of Health and Senior Services. The report shall include the name and address of the reporting physician, the name, address, gender, race and birth date of the person found to be infected with HIV, the date the specimen tested for HIV was obtained, and such other information as may be required by the Department of Health and Senior Services. A physician shall not report a person infected with HIV if the physician is aware that the person having control or supervision of an institution named in (b) below is reporting that person as being infected with HIV, or if the physician is aware that the person has previously been reported to the Department of Health and Senior Services as being infected with HIV. The Department of Health and Senior Services may also collect additional information on persons previously reported, for either audit or epidemiological purposes.

(b) The person having control or supervision over any institution such as a hospital, sanitarium, nursing home, penal institution, clinic, blood bank, insurance company or facility for HIV counseling and testing in which any person is determined to be infected with HIV shall, within 24 hours of receipt of a laboratory report indicating such a condition, report in writing such condition directly to the Department of Health and Senior Services on forms supplied by the Department of Health and Senior Services. The report shall state the name, address, gender, race, and birth date of the person found to be infected with HIV, the date the specimen tested for HIV was obtained, the name of the attending physician, the name and address of the institution, and such other information as may be required by the Department of Health and Senior Services. The person having control or supervision of the institution shall not report a person infected with HIV if it is known that a physician is reporting the person or that the person has previously been reported to the Department of Health and Senior Services as being infected with HIV. The person having control or supervision of the institution may delegate this reporting activity to a member of the staff, but this delegation does not relieve the controlling or supervising person of the ultimate reporting responsibility. The Department of Health and Senior Services may also collect additional information on persons previously reported, for either audit or epidemiological purposes.

(c) Every clinical laboratory shall, within five working days of completion of a quantitative PCR (viral load) test, regardless of test result, or any other laboratory test which has results indicative of infection with HIV, report in writing such results to the Department of Health and Senior Services. The report shall include the name and address of the clinical laboratory, the name and address of the submitter of the laboratory specimen, the date of the test, and the name, address, gender, and date of birth of the person from whom the laboratory specimen was obtained, or a unique code if a code is

the only information identifying the person from whom the laboratory specimen was obtained, and other epidemiological information as may be required by the Department of Health and Senior Services on a general or a case-by-case basis. Only specimens sent to the laboratory from physicians' offices in New Jersey or from institutions in New Jersey should be reported.

8:57-2.3 Reporting children perinatally exposed to HIV

(a) Every physician attending a child known to be perinatally exposed to HIV, or ordering a test resulting in the diagnosis of perinatally exposed to HIV, shall, within 24 hours of receipt of a laboratory report indicating such a condition report in writing such condition directly to the Department of Health and Senior Services on forms supplied by the Department of Health and Senior Services. The report shall include the information as in N.J.A.C. 8:57-2.2(a), and such other information as may be required by the Department of Health and Senior Services. A physician shall not report the child perinatally exposed to HIV if the physician is aware that the person having control or supervision of an institution named in (b) below is reporting that child as being infected with HIV, or if the physician is aware that the child has previously been reported to the Department of Health and Senior Services as being perinatally exposed to HIV. The Department of Health and Senior Services may also collect additional information on children previously reported, for either audit or epidemiological purposes.

(b) The person having control or supervision over any institution such as a hospital, sanitarium, nursing home, penal institution, clinic, blood bank, insurance company or facility for HIV counseling and testing in which a child is determined to be perinatally exposed to HIV shall, within 24 hours of receipt of a laboratory report or other medical evidence indicating such a condition, report in writing such condition directly to the Department of Health and Senior Services on forms supplied by the Department of Health and Senior Services. The report shall include the information as in N.J.A.C. 8:57-2.2(a), and such other information as may be required by the Department of Health and Senior Services. The person having control or supervision of the institution shall not report a child perinatally exposed to HIV if it is known that a physician is reporting the child or that the child has previously been reported to the Department of Health and Senior Services as being perinatally exposed to HIV. The person having control or supervision of the institution may delegate this reporting activity to a member of the staff, but this delegation does not relieve the controlling or supervising person of the ultimate reporting responsibility. The Department of Health and Senior Services may also collect additional information on children previously reported, for either audit or epidemiological purposes.

8:57-2.4 Reporting AIDS

(a) Every physician attending any person ill with AIDS shall, within 24 hours of the time AIDS is diagnosed, report in writing such condition directly to the Department of Health and Senior Services on forms supplied by the Department of Health and Senior

Services. The report shall include the name and address of the reporting physician, the name, address, gender, race, and birth date of the person ill with AIDS, the date of onset of the illness meeting the criteria for the diagnosis of AIDS, and such other information as may be required by the Department of Health and Senior Services. Such report should be made whether or not the patient previously had been reported as having HIV infection. The report of AIDS will be deemed to also be a report of HIV infection. The Department of Health and Senior Services may also collect additional information on persons previously reported, for either audit or epidemiological purposes.

(b) The person having control or supervision over any institution, such as a hospital, sanitarium, nursing home, penal institution, or clinic, in which a person is ill with AIDS shall within 24 hours of the time AIDS is diagnosed, report such condition in writing directly to the Department of Health and Senior Services on forms provided by the Department of Health and Senior Services. The report shall state the name, address, gender, race and birth date of the person ill with AIDS, the date of onset of the illness meeting the criteria for the diagnosis of AIDS, the name of the attending physician, the name and address of the institution, and such other information as may be required by the Department of Health and Senior Services. Such report should be made whether or not the patient previously had been reported as having HIV infection. The report of AIDS will be deemed to also be a report of HIV infection. The person having control or supervision of the institution may delegate this reporting responsibility to a member of the staff, but this delegation does not relieve the controlling or supervising person of the ultimate reporting responsibility. The Department of Health and Senior Services may also collect additional information on persons previously reported, for either audit or epidemiological purposes.

(c) Every clinical laboratory shall, within five working days of completion of a CD4 count which has absolute or relative results below a level specified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as criteria for defining AIDS, report in writing or electronically such results to the Department of Health and Senior Services. The report shall include the name and address of the clinical laboratory, the name and address of the submitter of the laboratory specimen, the date of the test, and the name, address, gender, and date of birth of the person from whom the laboratory specimen was obtained, or a unique code if a code is the only information identifying the person from whom the laboratory specimen was obtained, and other epidemiological information as may be required by the Department of Health and Senior Services on a general or a case-by-case basis. Only specimens sent to the laboratory from physicians' offices in New Jersey or from institutions in New Jersey should be reported.

8:57-2.5 Testing procedures

No physician or institution may direct a person to be tested for HIV, a component of HIV, or antibodies to HIV, unless the name and address of the person whose specimen is being tested is known and recorded by the physician or institution, except that the Commissioner, Department of Health and Senior Services may

designate facilities which are permitted to test for antibodies to HIV without obtaining the name and address of the person being tested. The name and address of a person requesting testing without giving his or her name and address at such a designated facility are not required to be reported to the Department of Health and Senior Services.

8:57-2.6 Exceptions to Communicable Disease Classification of AIDS and HIV

(a) AIDS or HIV infection shall not be considered a communicable disease for purposes of admission to, attendance in, or transportation in any of the following:

1. Nursing homes and other health care facilities;
2. Rooming and boarding homes, and shelters for the homeless;
3. Ambulances and other public conveyances; and
4. Educational facilities

8:57-2.7 Access to Information

As provided by N.J.S.A. 26:4-2 and 26:5C-5 through 14, the information reported to the Department shall not be subject to public inspection, but shall be subject to access only by the Department of Health and Senior Services for public health purposes.

8:57-2.8 Failure to comply with reporting requirements

(a) Physicians failing to fulfill the reporting requirements of this subchapter may receive written notification of this failure.

Physicians failing to meet these reporting requirements, despite warning, shall be subject to fines, as allowed by N.J.S.A. 26:4-129. In addition, those whose failure to report is determined by the Department of Health and Senior Services to have significantly hindered public health control measures shall be subject to other actions, including notification of the Board of Medical Examiners of the State Department of Law and Public Safety, and appropriate hospital medical directors or administrators.

(b) The person having control or supervision over any institution, who fails to fulfill the aforementioned reporting obligations, may receive written notification of this failure. Superintendents failing to meet these reporting requirements, despite warning, shall be subject to a fine, as allowed by N.J.S.A. 26:4-129. In addition, those whose failure to report is determined by the Department of Health and Senior Services to have significantly hindered public health control measures, shall be subject to other actions, including notification of the Department of Health and Senior Services, Division of Health Planning and Regulation, other appropriate licensing review organizations, and other appropriate agencies.

(c) Laboratory supervisors failing to fulfill the aforementioned reporting obligations may receive written notification of this failure. Supervisors failing to meet these requirements, despite warning, shall be subject to fines as allowed by N.J.S.A. 26:4-129. In addition, those whose failure to report is determined by the Department of Health and Senior Services to have significantly hindered public health control measures, shall be subject to other actions, including notification of the State Clinical Laboratory Improvement Services.