Guidance for Clinical Laboratories on Communicable Disease Immediate Reporting Requirements

This document clarifies clinical laboratory reporting requirements and procedures, specifically what and how to report outside of routine business hours. The printable "Communicable Disease Reporting Requirements" provides a quick reference guide, but clinical laboratory directors should review N.J.A.C. 8:57-2.5, 2.6 in its entirety.

- Test results for reportable diseases are divided into two reporting timeframes – immediate and next business day.
- The method of reporting immediately reportable test results and who clinical laboratories must report to varies and is summarized below.
- All other test results are reportable by the next business day through electronic laboratory reporting – ELR, or by entry into the Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS), no telephone reports are required.

Immediate reporting to the local health department (LHD) by telephone and ELR, including outside of routine business hours:

Reports must be made to the LHD where the patient resides, or if unknown, to the LHD where the laboratory is located.

- A **Find Your Local Health Department locator** is linked on the NJDOH Disease Reporting page: https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/reporting/.
- Clinical laboratory directors should ensure that staff responsible for reporting are aware of this resource and/or have their LHD after-hours contact information readily available. All New Jersey LHDs are required to maintain a mechanism to receive and respond to immediately reportable conditions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including weekends and holidays.
- These should NOT be reported to NJDOH unless the LHD is unreachable.
- In addition to telephone reporting, test results for these diseases must be reported immediately through ELR. Clinical laboratory directors should ensure that their laboratory information management systems are configured to send ELR for these diseases in compliance with the required timeframe.

Test results that must be reported immediately to the LHD by telephone and ELR into CDRSS:

Acanthamoeba spp.	*Neisseria meningitidis* (sterile site only)
Bacillus anthracis	Poliovirus
Balamuthia mandrillaris	Rabies virus
Burkholderia pseudomallei	Rubeola (measles) virus
Clostridium botulinum	SARS-CoV (excluding SARS-CoV-2)
Corynebacterium diphtheriae	Variola virus spp.
Hantavirus	*Yersinia pestis*
Influenza A virus, novel/unsubtypeable only	Viral hemorrhagic fevers (e.g., Ebola, Lassa, Marburg)
Naegleria fowleri	

Immediate reporting to the LHD by ELR ONLY (no telephone call), including outside of routine business hours:

Test results for the following diseases must be reported to the LHD immediately through **ELR ONLY** into CDRSS. **NO TELEPHONE REPORT IS REQUIRED**.

- Clinical laboratory directors should ensure that their laboratory information management systems are configured to send ELR for these diseases in compliance with the required timeframe.

Test results that must be reported immediately to the LHD by ELR only (no telephone call):

Acid-fast bacilli	Orthopoxvirus monkeypox
Haemophilus influenzae (sterile site only)	Rubella
Hepatitis A	

Immediate reporting of CULTURES suspected to contain a select agent by telephone to NJDOH, including outside of routine business hours:

If a **culture** is suspected to contain one of the following select agents, these must be reported immediately by telephone to NJDOH, at 609-826-5964 during business hours or on the emergency after hours number at 609-392-2020. Other test results for these diseases (excluding suspected organisms growing in culture) must be reported to the LHD according to required timeframes and methods.

Suspected cultures that must be reported immediately to NJDOH by telephone:

Bacillus anthracis	*Burkholderia pseudomallei*
Brucella spp.	*Francisella tularensis*
Burkholderia mallei	*Yersinia pestis*

Questions on Reporting:
https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/reporting/; Damithri.Fonseka@doh.nj.gov