

Communicable Disease Reporting Requirements for Residential Congregate Living Facilities

Per New Jersey Administrative Code (N.J.A.C) 8:57-2.4, congregate living facilities are required to report cases and outbreaks of communicable diseases. Congregate settings include group homes, correctional and detention facilities, shelters, transitional housing, as well as any other setting where a group of unrelated individuals reside, meet, or gather in close proximity, typically sharing common spaces.

Residential congregate living facilities include:

- Residential health care facilities within the jurisdiction of the Department of Community affairs that are not located within and operated by a licensed health care facility.
- Facilities licensed by:
 - New Jersey Department of Children and Families
 - New Jersey Department of Human Services
 - Youth Justice Commission of the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety
- Farms or migrant labor camps overseen by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development
- Correctional Facilities

Administrators of these facilities should report:

- Cases of suspected or confirmed reportable communicable diseases as indicated.
- Positive point of care test results for the organisms listed.
- Confirmed cases of communicable diseases not listed at N.J.A.C. 8:57 but included on the Notifiable Condition List of infectious conditions for the year in which the disease is identified.
- A suspected or confirmed outbreak of any communicable disease.
- A case of a suspected or confirmed communicable disease that has the potential to become a public health emergency immediately.

Reporting cases or outbreaks of communicable diseases:

Certain communicable diseases, suspected outbreaks, and other public health emergencies must be reported immediately by telephone upon suspicion even if laboratory tests are still pending. Non-immediately reportable diseases must be reported by the next business day.

Notify the Local Health Department (LHD) of the jurisdiction in which the facility is located. A directory of LHDs can be found at <http://localhealth.nj.gov>.

For communicable disease resources and guidance:

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/congregatesettings.shtml>

For additional information on what, when, and how to report:

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/reporting/healthcare-professionals/>

Printable summary of reporting requirements for healthcare providers and administrators:

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/hcp_admin_disease_reporting_magnet.pdf