



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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COMMISSIONER

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Dear Colleagues:

This letter is to notify you of changes for the 2018 List of Reportable Diseases in Tennessee, effective January 1, 2018. First, we again want to thank you for all you do at both the individual and community levels to protect and improve the health of people in Tennessee. You have a great deal to contend with in each of your busy daily practices and I continue to be grateful for your efforts in a variety of important areas. This includes the recently declared "Nationwide Public Health Emergency" to address the "opioid crisis" that many of you have been engaged in for years, to the subject of today's letter, disease reporting, an essential public health tool in Tennessee for nearly a century.

As you know, reporting required diseases and events assists with detection of significant health issues that lead to essential public health interventions and prevention efforts. The complete list and detailed laboratory guidance documents are available at <https://apps.health.tn.gov/ReportableDiseases>. Important changes in 2018 include:

All Reporters:

- Suspected or known cases of Yellow Fever should be reported on the next business day.
- All carbapenem-resistant genera and species within the family of *Enterobacteriaceae* are reportable by laboratories (including *Enterobacter* species, *Escherichia coli*, and *Klebsiella* species).
- Reporters may continue to report via paper or online at <https://redcap.health.tn.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=XTJTN4MD3D>.

Laboratories Only:

- Laboratories are encouraged to report via electronic laboratory reporting (ELR).
- Extended-spectrum Beta-lactamase-producing *Klebsiella* species are now reportable from sentinel laboratories only in Maury and Williamson counties.
- *Burkholderia mallei* is no longer reportable from laboratories.
- HIV genotype nucleotide sequences are now reportable by laboratories conducting this testing and reporting via ELR.
- Guidance documents have been updated for changes in laboratory reporting requirements for several enteric pathogens, the healthcare-associated infections, blood lead levels, and Spotted Fever Group Rickettsioses.

Please also remember that all suspected outbreaks, regardless of etiology, are reportable. If you have any questions about public health reporting, please call your local or regional health department (<http://www.tn.gov/health/topic/localdepartments>), or (615)741-7247. Thank you for helping in our mission to protect, promote and improve the health and prosperity of people in Tennessee.

Sincerely,



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Commissioner

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