



***Campylobacter* (*Campylobacter* species) Infection**

The Michigan Department of Community Health has adopted the 2012 CDC national case definition for *Campylobacter* infection or campylobacteriosis to facilitate case ascertainment across jurisdictions. This definition takes into account not only traditional culture-based methods but also culture-independent methods in place of culture for detecting *Campylobacter* in stool specimens. Culture-independent methods are used increasingly by a number of clinical laboratories in Michigan and elsewhere. According to the CDC, available data about the performance characteristics of these culture-independent assays indicate there is variability in the sensitivity, specificity, and positive predictive value of these assays depending on the test (enzyme immunoassay (EIA) test format, such as lateral flow or microplate) and manufacturer. It is therefore useful to collect information on which type of EIA test and manufacturer are used to diagnose a case. Culture confirmation of positive culture-independent (e.g., EIA) test specimens is ideal.

Although *Campylobacter* infection is not a nationally notifiable disease, it is reportable in Michigan. **Positive *Campylobacter* results from culture-based or culture-independent methods should be reported to your local health department or through the Michigan Disease Surveillance System.** For surveillance purposes, the Michigan Department of Community Health is recommending that local health departments classify any positive results from *Campylobacter* non-culture-based tests as 'suspect' cases and proceed with case follow-up. Only culture-confirmed cases of *Campylobacter* are reported to the CDC.

Case Definitions

Clinical Description

- A diarrheal illness of variable severity

Confirmed Cases

- Isolation of *Campylobacter* spp. in any clinical specimen

Probable Cases

- A clinically compatible case that is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case

Suspect Cases

- Detection of *Campylobacter* spp. in a clinical specimen using non-culture based laboratory methods