



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH  
LANSING

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GOVERNOR

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## Update to Communicable Disease Rules

Dear Colleagues:

The Michigan Public Health Code (PA 368 of 1978 Sections 333.5111 and 333.9227) requires the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) to periodically review and update the Communicable Disease Rules (CD Rules) under which laboratories must report evidence of specific diseases or recovery of specific disease-causing agents. October 2, 2009 several CD Rules revisions became effective. This communication is an update on these changes and how they may impact clinical laboratories.

The vast majority of clinical laboratories *within our state* are already voluntarily submitting isolates and/or serum specimens of public health interest to the Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) at the MDCH request. Out of state commercial laboratories that test many specimens for Michigan residents have indicated they would submit specimens and isolates only if this was a legal requirement. As of the effective date of the most recent CD Rules changes, an organism or serum specimen shown in green bold text on the *Reportable Diseases in Michigan* list (dated 1/05) and remnant specimens that confirm HIV infection listing must now be submitted to the BOL. Many states, for just such reasons, have already changed their statutes or rules to include the legal requirement for isolate and specimen submission. This change in Communicable Disease Rules brings Michigan into compliance with best public health practices.

To reflect advances in tuberculosis diagnostics laboratory technology, clinical laboratories must now report to local health departments "preliminary test results" and test interpretations, such as nucleic acid amplification tests, genetic probes, chromatography and other tests performed prior to a final culture results consistent with a diagnosis of tuberculosis. This will allow more prompt case investigation and, hopefully, decrease transmission. Reporting of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* was expanded to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex to capture the rare but important human cases of *M. bovis* infection.

A summary of the CD Rules changes are attached for your review. The *Reportable Disease in Michigan List* will be revised and distributed within the next few months to reflect these changes. The updated list will also be available soon on the Emerging Infectious Disease website <http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases>; click on Disease Surveillance on the left and under Introduction, see: "Diseases Reportable by Law in Michigan."

We are ever grateful for your collaboration and the commitment of the clinical laboratory community in Michigan that assists the BOL in fulfilling our responsibilities to advance the health of Michigan.

Sincerely,

Frances Pouch Downes, Dr.P.H.  
Laboratory Director