



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Public Health  
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February 28, 2012

Dear Laboratory Colleagues:

The Public Health Council approved amendments to 105 CMR 300.000 : Reportable Diseases, Surveillance, and Isolation and Quarantine Regulations which became effective January 6, 2012. Specifically, 105 CMR 300.170 Laboratory Findings Indicative of Infectious Disease Reportable Directly to the Department by Laboratories has been amended to enhance HIV/AIDS surveillance in Massachusetts . This amendment requires reporting of (laboratory findings indicative of): evidence of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) (all CD4+ cell counts, regardless of result) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) (all HIV viral load test results in addition to diagnostic antibody and antigen tests). The second amendment 105 CMR 300.180 (c) Diseases Reportable Directly to the Department requires these indicators to be reported directly “to the Department in a written or electronic format as designated by the Department” (no longer separate from all other laboratory reports).

These updated regulations expand laboratory results reportable to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) to include indicators of HIV infection and AIDS. This will help with the MDPH’s discovery of unreported cases of HIV infection. Full CD4 and HIV viral load reporting is currently required by regulation or rule in 47 states.

MDPH initiated AIDS surveillance in 1983. In January, 1999 HIV infection became reportable by use of a unique identifier (“code”). In 2007, MDPH moved to a named HIV surveillance system. Since 2007, MDPH has worked with all reporting sites to facilitate name ascertainment of cases previously reported by code, as it is required for maintaining federal funding. This further change will allow for more rapid name ascertainment by linking laboratory reports to previously reported code cases. MDPH receives funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) based on a formula that relies on the number of reported, named, confirmed cases of HIV infection and AIDS.

**Also in 2008, regulations were amended mandating laboratories to report electronically to the Department:**

“In addition to the requirements of 105 CMR 300.100, 300.171, 300.180(A) and 300.180(C) all laboratories, including those outside of Massachusetts, performing examinations on any specimens derived from Massachusetts residents that yield evidence of infection due to the organisms listed below shall report such evidence of infection directly to the Department through secure electronic laboratory reporting mechanisms, or other method, as defined by the Department.”

MDPH maintains a secure automated electronic laboratory reporting infrastructure and will work with your staff to implement these new laboratory reporting requirements. For questions regarding electronic laboratory reporting, please contact Sita Smith at (617)983-6547 or email [ELR.CDSupport@state.ma.us](mailto:ELR.CDSupport@state.ma.us).

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Roberta Teixeira  
Director  
Clinical Laboratory Program



Kevin Cranston, MDiv  
Director  
Bureau of Infectious Disease



Alfred DeMaria Jr., MD  
Medical Director  
Bureau of Infectious Disease  
State Epidemiologist