New Electronic Reporting System for Clinical Laboratories

If your lab is interested in sending the data directly to the Registry via sFTP, please contact Michael Flanagan (617) 626-6958, or michael.flanagan@massmail.state.ma.us. None of the options outlined below will be necessary if you choose the sFTP method.

If your lab is interested in using the Mass HIway, this method provides labs with three options for sending data: Webmail, LAND, or Direct. A brief description of each is below to help you determine the best solution for your lab's reporting.

Webmail is the solution with the lowest investment to an organization. Labs can sign up for Webmail as long as they have an internet connection and access to a computer that runs one of the following web browsers: Microsoft Internet Explorer version 8 or higher, Mozilla Firefox 10 or higher or Safari 5 or higher (although Safari may not be included in future versions). Using Webmail, your lab communicates with the Mass HIway using secure email. All Webmail traffic is routed through the Mass HIway. The lab data is sent as an email attachment and all uploaded attachments are scanned by an antivirus package. The Body and Subject Line of Webmail messages will not be processed. Attachments need to be labeled in the following format: AdultLead_XYZ_MMDDYYYYHHMMSS (where XYZ is the lab's name, and MM is the month, DD is the day, YYYY is the year, HH is the hour in military time, MM is the minute and SS is the second when the file was created). For example:

AdultLead_GenericLab_11062014130957.

The LAND solution provides you with a computer hardware component, or appliance, that will be located where your computer hardware is stored. The LAND appliance is primarily designed to be connected to the Local Area Network within a clinical laboratory so that the other systems can easily interact with it. It uses the internet to exchange information with the Mass HIway. Even though the information is signed and encrypted, because it is connected to the internet, a number of extra precautions are put into place. The LAND appliance does not accept any inbound connections, and includes a firewall, encrypted volumes and other security mechanisms to ensure information is not inadvertently exposed to the internet. This is a good solution for larger providers, and may require some modest expenditure to configure.

Direct method (often referred to as SMIME Client, SMIME Server or XDR) requires the highest level of technical expertise, but does not require any additional hardware. The Direct method operates by exchanging data between a Direct-compliant Electronic Health Records (EHR) system and the Mass HIway. Users must develop the necessary integration between the internal systems (EHR, data repository, etc.) and any Direct Gateway at the edge of the user's network.

The Mass HIway team can provide additional technical details and help for labs interested in considering any of the above approaches.

If your lab is interested in sending the data using one of the Massachusetts Health Information Exchange's options please contact Michael Flanagan (617) 626-6958, or michael.flanagan@massmail.state.ma.us.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any questions about your reporting requirements under the Massachusetts Occupational Lead Poisoning Registry Law or 454 CMR 23.00.