

Summary of Revisions to Florida's Notifiable Disease Reporting Law (Chapter 64D-3, F.A.C.)

Section 7

Notifiable Disease Reporting: Changes to Chapter 64D-3, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Reporting suspect and confirmed notifiable diseases or conditions in the State of Florida is mandated under Florida Statute 381.0031, Chapter 64D-3, *Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)*. During 2005 and 2006, the Florida Department of Health conducted an extensive rewrite of Chapter 64D-3 *F.A.C.*. These changes became effective November 2006. The 2007 reporting year was the first complete reporting year where these changes were effective.

As stated in Chapter 64D-3 *F.A.C.*, persons in charge of laboratories, practitioners, hospitals, medical facilities, schools, nursing homes, state institutions, or other locations providing health services are required to report diseases or conditions and the associated laboratory test results listed in the Table of Notifiable Diseases or Conditions. Physicians, laboratorians, infection control practitioners, and other healthcare providers play a key role in the state and local public health department efforts to control notifiable diseases. The public health system depends upon reports of disease to monitor the health of the community, and to provide the basis for preventive action.

Some important highlights to Chapter 64D-3, F.A.C. that took effect November 2006 included:

- Revised reporting timeframes to three major categories:
 - Suspect Immediately (newly added): Report immediately upon initial suspicion or laboratory test order, 24/7 by phone;
 - Immediately: Report immediately upon diagnosis confirmed clinically or by laboratory test results, 24/7 by phone;
 - Next Business Day (previously within 72 hours): Report no later than the closure of the county health department next business day following confirmatory testing or diagnosis.
- Added new diseases or conditions to the list of reportable diseases for practitioners and laboratories:
 - Reportable by practitioners: HIV-exposed infants or newborns, and conjunctivitis in neonates <14 days old;
 - Reportable by laboratories: CD-4 counts, viral load, and STARHS; abnormal cervical cytologist/histologies; ALL blood lead tests performed;
 - Reportable by practitioners and laboratories (newly added): California serogroup viruses; HPV cancer-associated strains; novel or pandemic influenza virus strains (isolated from a human); influenza associated pediatric mortality; hepatitis D, E, and G; SARS; typhus fever (epidemic); varicella; varicella mortality; and cancer, including benign and borderline intracranial and central nervous system tumors.
- Required routine testing during pregnancy for chlamydia, gonorrhea, hepatitis B, HIV, and syphilis with an opt-out approach.
- Required laboratories to report laboratory results for notifiable diseases or conditions electronically.

To obtain more information, such as the updated version of Chapter 64D-3, *F.A.C.*, or other important reporting documents and guidelines, please visit http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/topics/surv.htm, or contact the Florida Department of Health state offices or the local county health department.

