



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

JOHN J. DREYZEHNER, MD, MPH
COMMISSIONER

BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR

January 1, 2019

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for your participation in protecting the public's health in Tennessee. Reporting required diseases and events assists with public health interventions, primary prevention efforts, and emerging disease issues. This letter is to notify you of changes for the 2019 List of Reportable Diseases in Tennessee, effective January 1, 2019. The List and Detailed Laboratory Guidance document are available at <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/reportable-diseases.html>, and provide guidance for healthcare providers and laboratories regarding reporting requirements. Important changes in 2019 include:

All Reporters:

- The online reporting option will be moving to a new system on February 4, 2019 for all diseases. For access, please sign up here: <https://redcap.health.tn.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=8L7CMWHN4M>
- Single cases of pan-nonsusceptible organisms, unusual resistance mechanisms, or other emerging or unusual pathogens were added as events of urgent public health concern.

Hospitals Only:

- Reporting antibiotic use in acute care hospitals through the National Healthcare Safety Network's Antibiotic Use and Resistance Module will be required beginning in January 1, 2021. This will be a phased-in approach based on hospital bed size. As this requirement will require some planning for hospitals to implement, the Tennessee Department of Health is advising of this future requirement several years in advance to allow adequate preparation. [For more information: <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/hai.html>]

Laboratories Only:

- *Burkholderia mallei/Burkholderia pseudomallei* are again reportable from laboratories.
- Reminder: All negative confirmatory Hepatitis C Virus assays (antigen or nucleic acid amplification for HCV RNA) have been reportable for chronic HCV since January 2017.

Please also remember all suspected outbreaks, regardless of etiology, are reportable. If you have any questions regarding the 2019 List of Reportable Diseases, please call your local or regional health department (<https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/localdepartments.html>), or (615)741-7247, and ask for the program responsible for the pathogen or event. Again, we greatly appreciate your partnership in public health reporting. Thank you for helping the Tennessee Department of Health in our mission to protect, promote and improve the health and prosperity of people in Tennessee.

Sincerely,

John J. Dreyzehner, MD, MPH, FACOEM
Commissioner

JJD/TJ/tls

5th Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower
710 James Robertson Parkway * Nashville, TN 37243
(615) 741-3111 * www.tn.gov/health