



Department of Public Health and Human Services

Public Health and Safety Division ♦ Communicable Disease Control and Prevention Bureau Communicable Disease/Epidemiology Section ♦ PO Box 202951 ♦ 1400 Broadway ♦ Helena, MT 59620-2951 ♦ Phone: (406) 444-0273 ♦ Fax: (406) 444-0272

Steve Bullock, Governor

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Technical Guidance Regarding Official Rule Change

Summary of Rule Changes

December 2019

We are pleased to provide you with a summary of changes to the Montana communicable disease control rules updated in 2019 and will become effective on January 1, 2020. The rules were modified to improve communicable disease control and reporting practices across Montana, and to bring required practices in line with national standards. The table that follows summarizes the major changes.

General powers and duties of the Department of Public Health and Human Services are outlined in Montana Code Annotated ([MCA 50-1-202](#)). Specific rules regarding reporting, investigation, and control measures are in the Administrative Rules of Montana ([Chapter 37.114](#)). The rules have been updated as follows:

- A new rule regarding reporting and establishment of guidance for the control of Multidrug Resistant Organisms (MRDO)
- Addition of Toxic Metals to the list of reportable conditions (includes arsenic, cadmium, and mercury)
- Continuing alignment with the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) list of Nationally Notifiable Conditions and continued alignment with the *Control of Communicable Disease Manual* (CCDM)
- Alignment with updated CDC Tuberculosis guidance documents
 - Addition of latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) to the list of reportable conditions
 - Addition of electronic directly observed therapy (eDOT) as an option with approval from the DPHHS TB program
- Updates of diseases or conditions requiring specimen submission to the Montana Public Health Laboratory (MTPHL) for confirmation or surveillance testing.

We would like to thank everyone who was involved in this revision of the Administrative Rules for their dedication to completing this important task.



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Updates to Communicable Disease Reporting Requirements – Montana Effective January 1, 2020

Administrative Rule	Revisions
NEW RULE Multidrug-resistant organisms (MDRO)	Addition of Multidrug-resistant organisms (MDRO) to the list of reportable conditions including case response and control measures
37.114.105 Incorporation by Reference	Addition of the <i>Interim Guidance for a Public Health Response to Contain Novel or Targeted Multidrug-resistant Organisms (MDRO)</i> , updated January 2019, published by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
37.114.203 Reportable Diseases and Conditions	<p>Clarifications: (Some names changed/updated more inclusive terminology)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>E. coli</i>, Shiga toxin-producing [STEC] (spelling) • Lead poisoning (clarified reportable level) • Salmonellosis, including <i>S. Typhi</i> and <i>S. Paratyphi</i> (combined) • Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, including Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease (name added)
37.114.203 Reportable Diseases and Conditions	<p>Additions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arsenic poisoning • Cadmium poisoning • <i>Candida auris</i> • Latent TB Infection (LTBI) • Mercury poisoning
37.114.204 Reports and Reports Deadlines (Reports from local health jurisdictions to DPHHS)	<p>Diseases Reportable within 7 days</p> <p>Diseases clarified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) administration or recommendation • HIV <p>Diseases added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arsenic poisoning • <i>Candida auris</i> • Cadmium poisoning • Latent TB Infection (LTBI) • Mercury poisoning



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37.114.313 Confirmation of Disease	Clarifies reasons that a local health officer must ensure a specimen is submitted to the Montana Public Health Laboratory (MTPHL)
37.114.313 Confirmation of Disease	<p>Diseases added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multidrug Resistant Organisms (MDRO) renamed and include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Candida auris</i> (added) ○ Carbapenem Resistance Organisms (CRO) (renamed) ○ Vancomycin Intermediate <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (VISA) ○ Vancomycin Resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (VRSA) <p>Diseases removed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Campylobacter</i> • Gonorrhea • Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) • Syphilis <p>Clarifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Salmonella</i> Typhi and Paratyphi included as Salmonellosis • Tuberculosis (specifies TB disease) • Specimen requirements for outbreak confirmation and disease emergence
37.114.571 Rabies Exposure	Change in wording from ‘quarantine’ to ‘observation’ period
37.114.590 <i>Salmonella</i> Typhi	Updates to terminology for condition Typhoid Fever
37.114.546 Toxic Metals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defines toxic metals investigation and mitigation activities. • Adds Typhoid Fever and <i>E. coli</i> [STEC] to control measures for daycares and schools
37.114.1001 – 1016 Tuberculosis	<p>Updates to include Latent TB Infection (LTBI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnostic criteria • Case follow up, reporting, and contact investigation