



Department of Public Health and Human Services

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Technical Guidance Regarding Official Rule Change

Summary of Rule Changes

March 2017

We are pleased to provide you with an updated copy of the communicable disease control rules that have been updated in 2013 and became effective on March 24th, 2017. 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 below summarizes the major changes in the statutes from a public health jurisdiction standpoint.

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 (TITLE 37 Chapter 114). The rules have been updated as follows:

- Expansion of outbreak reporting to include “congregate settings” to include facility level outbreaks such as antibiotic resistant organisms or any other facility based outbreak.
- Continuing alignment with the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists list of Nationally Notifiable Conditions and Continued alignment with the Control of Communicable Disease Manual (CCDM).
- Mandatory laboratory reporting of RSV has been eliminated as a sentinel surveillance approach has been found to provide equal surveillance value
- Typhoid Fever and E. coli STEC have new control measures aligned with the American Academy of Pediatrics to protect children.
- Alignment with Food and Consumer Safety rules primarily around the “Food Code.”
- Alignment with updated Tuberculosis guidance documents
- Explicit requirements for Tuberculosis Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) in alignment with national guidelines
- Elimination of screening requirements for employees of schools and daycares

We would like to thank everyone who was involved in this revision to the administrative rules for their tireless dedication to completing this important task.

Updates to Communicable Disease Reporting Requirements – Montana Effective March 24, 2017

Administrative Rules of Montana	REVISIONS
37.114.201 Reporters	Added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laboratories can report electronically directly to the state with electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) to the Montana Infectious Disease Information Systems (MIDIS)
37.114.203 Reportable Diseases and Conditions	Clarifications: (Some names changed/updated more inclusive terminology) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arboviral Diseases (updated terminology) • Botulism (clarification) • Chlamydia (updated terminology) • Campylobacter (updated terminology) • Erlichiosis (spelling) • Hepatitis C (clarification) • Hansen’s Disease (clarification) • Lead (now includes both adults and children) • Rickettsiosis (spotted fever) is now under new name • Poliomyelitis (clarification) • Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (Capitalization) • Streptococcal toxic shock syndrome (acronym addition) • Toxic Shock Syndrome (acronym addition) • Any unusual incident of unexplained illness... (incorporated under 2. In new rules)
37.114.203 Reportable Diseases and Conditions	Added: (Some names changed/updated more inclusive terminology) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leptospirosis • Spotted fever rickettsiosis (see above) • New section 2 making specific outbreak reporting of communicable diseases listed in the CCDM in an institutional or congregate setting • Adult lead now reportable
37.114.204 Reports and Reports Deadlines (Reports from local health jurisdictions to DPHHS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diseases Reportable within 24 hours <u>Diseases removed</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Novel influenza A virus infection <u>Diseases added</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Cholera ➢ Leptospirosis ➢ Outbreak of disease specified in 37.114.203 ➢ Any unusual incident of illness or death in a human or animal with potential human health implications
37.114.301 Sensitive Occupations and Settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adds language that aligns with the Food Code and Food and Consumer Rules and refers to congregate settings as they may relate to mitigation actions
37.114.313 Confirmation of Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defines when local health officer must ensure a specimen is submitted to the Montana public health laboratory for specific diseases <u>Diseases removed</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Pertussis <u>Diseases added</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Arboviral diseases ➢ Tularemia ➢ Better defines when specimen submission can be stopped for certain diseases.
37.114.316 Outbreak in and Institutional or congregate setting (NEW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infection control precautions (defined in definitions) must be employed until causative organism is identified then follow control measures for that organism.
37.114.500 series	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redefines lead mitigation activities to include adults and simplifies control measures • Adds Typhoid Fever and E coli STEC control measures for daycares and schools
37.114.1001 – 1016 Tuberculosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates Entire set of processes including repeal of screening for certain employees and explicit use of Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) • Repeals 37.114.1010 screening in certain facilities no longer required.