

DECEMBER 20, 2019



Montana Laboratory Sentinel

Updates from the MT Laboratory Services Bureau, 800-821-7284,

www.lab.hhs.mt.gov

Revised Reportable Disease List

Montana's Communicable Disease Epidemiology program (CDEpi) is implementing several important communicable disease rule changes on January 1, 2020. Specific rules regarding disease reporting are found in the Administrative Rules of Montana (Chapter 37.114.203). The language on the website will not be updated until 1/1/2020, but you can click [here](#) to see the revised list of reportable diseases for your reference. This revised reportable disease list will take effect at the first of the year (1/1/2020).

There are five newly reportable conditions in the state of Montana:

***Candida auris* infection:** detected by PCR or cultured, from any site

Latent tuberculosis infections (LTBI): diagnosed by a positive Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA). The two tests that are most commonly used in the US are: QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus and T-SPOT.TB.

Arsenic poisoning: diagnosed by ≥ 70 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ total arsenic in urine; or ≥ 35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ methylated plus inorganic arsenic in urine;

Cadmium poisoning: diagnosed by \geq five $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ total blood cadmium levels; or \geq three $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ total cadmium in urine);

Mercury poisoning: diagnosed by ≥ 200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ total mercury in urine; or ≥ 20 μg elemental mercury/g in creatinine in urine; or ≥ 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ elemental, organic, and inorganic blood mercury levels;

If you report labs electronically to the state of Montana through the Montana Infectious Disease Surveillance System (MIDIS): Beginning 1/1/2020, please send positive laboratory results in your regular ELR feed for the additional conditions listed above. It is fine if you want to start sending these laboratory results prior to 1/1/2020, but they will not be counted in the 2020 case counts.

New Form for Adding on Tests for Mycobacteriology

We have a new “Add-on Test” request form for use when requesting additional testing on *Mycobacteria* spp. isolates. These tests include susceptibility testing for *Mycobacterium avium complex* (MAC) isolates or for further identification of *Mycobacterium* spp. The form is intended to ease the requesting process by providing choices for testing, so you simply need to check a box. Please click [here](#) to see and/or print the modified form and let us know if you have any questions. 800-821-7284

Infectious Disease Surveillance

The Montana Public Health Laboratory (MTPHL), in coordination with our Communicable Disease Epidemiology (CDEpi) program, requests certain isolates and/or specimens to be submitted to the MTPHL for further surveillance testing. This testing is performed at no charge to the submitter and provides information that allows for rapid identification of public health issues, control of outbreaks, and prevention of disease at local, state, and national levels. Surveillance testing provides a more in depth look at what is circulating around our state.

For instance, enteric isolates, such as *Salmonella*, *Shigella*, and shiga-toxin producing *Escherichia coli* are further sequenced to determine relatedness, which allows for rapid identification of clusters and prevention of full-blown outbreaks. These genetic sequences are also entered into a national database, where matches can be identified nationwide, which is how many of the multi-state foodborne outbreaks have been identified, investigated and mitigated.

If you ever have questions about why we are asking for what we ask for, give us a call and we will gladly explain. Thanks to all of you for helping in our surveillance efforts! We couldn't do it without you!

