



# Department of Public Health and Human Services

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Steve Bullock, Governor

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## Addition of Latent TB Infection (LTBI) as a Reportable Condition

The purpose of this document is to share information regarding a recent Administrative Rule of Montana (ARM) change regarding latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI). Montana is joining the approximately 26 states making LTBI reportable condition. For the relevant rules pertaining to this change please see Administrative Rule 37.114.203 and rules pertaining to LTBI in subchapter 37.114.1001 available at [www.mtrules.org](http://www.mtrules.org).

### Key Points:

- Reporting of LTBI begins January 1, 2020
- Report cases of LTBI to local public health
- Your local health department may contact you requesting additional information
- Resources can be found on the state tuberculosis webpage, link below

Please report any new LTBI cases as of January 1, 2020 to your local health department. Your local health department will be collecting basic information will be sent to the state for reporting purposes.

### Rational for the ARM Change

This change was made after rigorous internal review of tuberculosis in Montana, and a look at tuberculosis trends nationally. Montana TB case rates continue to be among the lowest in the country. However, we have begun to plateau in recent years with an average of 5.4 cases per year during 2010 to 2019. Our goal in Montana and nationally is TB elimination. In order to have a fighting chance towards this goal we need to address TB disease's largest contributing source: those that have latent TB infection and convert to active disease. Over 80% of TB cases nationally are individuals that had LTBI and converted to active TB disease. The percentage is even higher in Montana. If we are to see TB elimination in Montana, we need to make a more concerted effort in identifying and treating those with LTBI.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is making LTBI a focus of TB elimination efforts as cases of active disease continue to decline. As a result, funding and national goals are beginning to focus more on LTBI in addition to TB disease. Montana, along with a majority of states in the U.S. are now making LTBI reportable in order to work towards TB elimination.

Should you have questions about this rule change or resources that are available, please contact your local health department. A LTBI Toolkit is available which contains the most update screening, diagnosing, and treatment recommendations as well as FAQs, patient materials, and educational resources for both patients and providers. These resources can be found on the state tuberculosis page:

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/tuberculosis>

Thank you.

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