



Department of Health and Human Services  
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## Maine Health Alert Network (HAN) System

# PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

**To:** All HAN Recipients  
**From:** Dr. Siiri Bennett, State Epidemiologist  
**Subject:** **Notifiable Diseases and Conditions Rule Update, Re-Instatement of Requirement to Submit SARS-CoV-2 Samples**  
**Date / Time:** Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 9:30AM  
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### Updated Rule for the Control of Notifiable Diseases and Conditions

The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) has updated its Rules for the Control of Notifiable Diseases and Conditions. The new rule goes into effect today, February 17, 2021. One of the most significant parts of the rule is the Notifiable Diseases and Conditions List, which states the diseases and conditions required to be reported to the state.

The Rules for the Control of Notifiable Diseases and Conditions were first drafted in 1976 by the Department of Health and Human Services. The last revision to the rules occurred in 2015. Maine CDC has updated the Rules for the Control of Notifiable Diseases and Conditions to better align with new and emerging diseases and more efficient methods of reporting that are being adopted nationally. The updated rules reinforce the requirements for electronic laboratory reporting of notifiable diseases as well as compliance with provider reporting.

Some of the changes to the Notifiable Disease List include but are not limited to:

- Addition of Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM), *Borrelia miyamotoi*, *Candida auris*, Vaping associated pulmonary illness (EVALI), and Zika virus disease
- Removal of Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*
- Clarification of Carbapenemase-producing Carbapenem-resistant organisms, and human immunodeficiency virus reporting requirements

Maine CDC relies on health care providers and laboratorians to report the occurrence of notifiable diseases. Without such surveillance data, Maine cannot accurately monitor trends, detect and respond to unusual occurrences of diseases (such as outbreaks), and evaluate the effectiveness of control and prevention activities.

Maine CDC notifiable conditions can be reported by submitting electronic laboratory reports, calling 1-800-821-5821, faxing 1-800-293-7534, and mailing reports to Maine CDC.

For certain diseases, directors of laboratories are to submit isolates or clinical specimens, as well as any isolates or clinical specimens as requested by Maine CDC, to Maine's Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) for confirmation, typing, and/or antibiotic sensitivity.

## **Re-Instatement of Requirement to Submit SARS-CoV-2 Samples to HETL**

On April 22, 2020, Maine CDC issued a Temporary Update to the Notifiable Disease and Conditions List that removed the requirement to submit SARS-CoV-2 samples to HETL. Because of the ongoing pandemic and the increased interest in whole viral genome sequencing, Maine CDC is re-instating the requirement to submit samples to the state. **HETL will be in touch with facilities directly to request a certain number of samples to be shipped each week.**

The number of samples and the facilities requested to submit samples may change as HETL works toward typing a representative number of samples across the state.

Extracted RNA must be shipped on dry ice. If extracted RNA is not available, then the original clinical specimen should be submitted on dry ice. Because of the nature of this requirement, HETL can reimburse laboratories for the cost of dry ice and shipping containers. Please invoice HETL as appropriate. The following metadata is requested and should be emailed to [Nicholas.Matluk@maine.gov](mailto:Nicholas.Matluk@maine.gov) in Excel, or similar spreadsheet format.

- Submitting Laboratory Name (required)
- Lab unique identifier (required)
- CT value (required)
- Date of collection (required)
- Sample Source (required)
- Vaccine status (requested)
- Travel history (requested)
- County of residence (requested)

Shipments should be addressed to:

Attention: Nick Matluk  
SARS-CoV-2 sequencing  
221 State Street  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Copies of the updated Notifiable Diseases and Conditions Rule and List are available electronically at <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/disease-reporting/index.shtml>.