

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 25, 2016
TO: County Health Department Epidemiology Programs
FROM: Janet J. Hamilton, M.P.H.; Surveillance and Surveillance Systems Section Manager, Bureau of Epidemiology, Florida Department of Health
SUBJECT: Summary of 2016 Changes to Reportable Disease Case Definitions, Florida

A number of changes to the Florida reportable disease surveillance case definitions for general communicable diseases have been identified as a result of the position statements approved by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) at their June 2015 annual meeting. **The revised case definitions are effective for report year 2016, beginning January 3, 2016.**

A short description of the Florida case definition revisions are included below. The fully revised document "Surveillance Case Definitions for Select Reportable Diseases in Florida, 2016" will be posted on the Surveillance Case Definitions and MMWR Weeks website (<http://www.Floridahealth.gov/DiseaseCaseDefinitions>). Case definitions will also be published individually by disease on the Surveillance and Investigation Guidance website (<http://www.Floridahealth.gov/SurveillanceInvestigationGuide>).

Summary of case definition changes for general communicable diseases:

1. **Diphtheria:** Specified that clinical specimen must be from the nose or throat and eliminated the epidemiological linkage criteria from the probable case classification.
2. **Ehrlichiosis/anaplasmosis:** Removed positive IgM from presumptive laboratory criteria.
3. **Hepatitis B, acute:** Expanding presumptive laboratory criteria to include a negative test result other than HBsAg followed within 6 months prior by a positive test result.
4. **Hepatitis C, acute:**
 - Lowered alanine aminotransferase (ALT) cut-point from <400 to <200 IU/L in the clinical criteria.
 - Updated maximum time between a negative hepatitis C virus (HCV) antibody (anti-HCV) result and a positive laboratory result from 6 months to 12 months for the confirmatory laboratory criteria.
 - Revised confirmatory laboratory criteria by adding HCV antigen test and removing anti-HCV with signal to cut-off ratio.
5. **Hepatitis C, chronic:**
 - Revised confirmatory laboratory criteria by adding HCV antigen test and removing anti-HCV with signal to cut-off ratio and presumptive criteria by removing alanine aminotransferase values.

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- Revised probable case classification to be a positive anti-HCV test in the absence of negative nucleic acid test (NAT) for HCV RNA or a negative HCV antigen test.
 - Removed suspect case classification.
6. **Hepatitis C, perinatal:** Created a new case definition.
 7. **Rock Mountain spotted fever and spotted fever rickettsiosis:** Removed positive IgM from presumptive laboratory criteria.
 8. **Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC):** Clarified the probable case classification to align with national case definition.
 9. **Typhoid fever:**
 - Added non-culture based methods as supportive laboratory criteria and created a corresponding new suspect case classification.
 - Added a new suspect case classification for asymptomatic people.
 10. **Vibriosis:** Added non-culture based methods as supportive laboratory criteria and created a corresponding new suspect case classification.
 11. **Zika fever:** Created new case definitions for imported, non-pregnant cases and for locally acquired or pregnant cases. This case definition is likely to change. The current case definition can be found on the Please see the Surveillance and Investigation Guidance website (<http://www.Floridahealth.gov/SurveillanceInvestigationGuide>) for the current case definitions.

Thank you very much for your surveillance and reporting efforts throughout the year. Your input is essential as we continue to work together to prevent and control these diseases.