

**Mission:**

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



**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

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

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## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** April 1, 2019

**TO:** County Health Department Epidemiology Programs

**FROM:** Heather Rubino, PhD; Surveillance and Surveillance Systems Section Administrator, Bureau of Epidemiology, Florida Department of Health

**SUBJECT:** Summary of 2019 Changes to Reportable Disease Case Definitions, Florida

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Each January, the Bureau of Epidemiology changes Florida reportable disease surveillance case definitions for general communicable diseases to align with position statements approved by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) at their annual meeting. In addition to changing some case definitions in January 2019, some additional minor changes have been made mid-year as outlined below. **Revised case definitions were retroactively applied to cases with event dates in 2018 (beginning December 31, 2017).**

Short descriptions of the Florida case definition revisions are included below. The fully revised document, *Surveillance Case Definitions for Select Reportable Diseases in Florida, 2019 Version 1.1*, will be posted on the Surveillance Case Definitions and MMWR Weeks website ([www.Floridahealth.gov/DiseaseCaseDefinitions](http://www.Floridahealth.gov/DiseaseCaseDefinitions)).

### Summary of case definition changes for reportable diseases and conditions:

- 1. Anaplasmosis/ehrlichiosis:** Suspect case classification was expanded to include confirmatory and presumptive laboratory criteria.
- 2. Lyme disease:** Laboratory criteria for late manifestation Lyme disease were updated to include only IgG Western blot and culture.
- 3. Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis:** Suspect case classification was expanded to include confirmatory and presumptive laboratory criteria.

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.