

DATE: January 7, 2012

TO: County Health Department Epidemiologists

FROM: Janet J. Hamilton, M.P.H.; Surveillance and Surveillance Systems Section,
Bureau of Epidemiology, Florida Department of Health

SUBJECT: Summary of 2013 Changes to the Reportable Disease Case Definitions, Florida

A number of changes to the Florida reportable disease surveillance case definitions have been identified, many as a result of the position statements approved by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) at their June 2012 annual meeting. The revised case definitions should be used for reporting new 2013 cases beginning January 2013.

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, 2013" will be posted on the Bureau of Epidemiology website site

http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/surv/CaseDefinitions.html

Case definitions are published individually by disease on the following website

http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/topics/crforms.html

Summary of case definition changes:

1. Hansen's disease: revises the clinical, and laboratory criteria; a new suspect category has been added.
2. Influenza, novel or pandemic strains: revises the laboratory evidence; clarifies confirmed and probable case criteria.
3. Leptospirosis: has been added to the list of nationally notifiable conditions; modifies clinical presentation criteria and laboratory evidence; confirmed cases require only laboratory evidence (previously clinical criteria were also required); adds epidemiologic linkage to "exposure events" to meet the probable criteria.
4. Measles: revises the probable category and laboratory evidence; deletes suspect category.
5. Meningitis (bacterial, cryptococcal, mycotic): revises laboratory evidence
6. Rubella: updates clinical and laboratory criteria

These changes were effective in Merlin on January, 1, 2013.

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.