

What Laboratories Need to Know



Hepatitis A, B, C, D, E, and G

ALL laboratories in Florida are required to notify the Department of Health of diseases and conditions of public health significance under section 381.0031, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 64D-3, Florida Administrative Code.

Laboratory Results

Laboratory results are required to be submitted electronically. For information about electronic laboratory reporting (ELR), please contact the Department's ELR liaison at ELR@flhealth.gov.

When to Notify

Hepatitis A should be reported immediately and hepatitis B, C, D, E, and G must be reported by the next business day.

Laboratory Notification

Laboratories are required to notify the Department of reportable diseases and conditions. Duplicate reporting of the same illness may occur, although laboratories and practitioners have different reporting requirements. Laboratories are required to submit results electronically.

Time Frame for Reporting Hepatitis

Time frame for reporting hepatitis is based on Rule 64D-3.029, Florida Administrative Code, and can be found in the *Laboratory Reporting Guidelines for Reportable Diseases and Conditions in Florida* document. Reporting requirements can be found at www.FloridaHealth.gov/DiseaseReporting.

1 Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A is listed as **immediately**. Immediately should occur following confirmatory testing or diagnosis.

2 Hepatitis B, C, D, E, and G

Hepatitis B, C, D, E, and G is listed as **next business day**.

Hepatitis Screening

Universal hepatitis C screening recommendations provided by the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) include:

- Hepatitis C screening at least once in a lifetime for all adults aged 18 years and older.
- Hepatitis C screening for all pregnant women during each pregnancy.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ELR does not remove the requirement to report by telephone those diseases with notification time frames of **Suspect Immediately** and **Immediately**.
- Practitioners conducting in-house laboratory testing should review the laboratory reporting guidelines as well as practitioner guidelines to ensure compliance with an effective and timely public health response.
- All practitioners, medical facilities, and laboratories with reporting responsibilities should verify that notification systems are in place at the medical practices and hospitals in which they work and at the laboratories they use.

Understanding Laboratory Test Results

Hepatitis A Virus Antibody, IgM Test	This blood test detects hepatitis A antibodies
Hepatitis B Surface Antigen (HBsAg) Test	This blood test detects acute hepatitis B infections, and helps to diagnose chronic hepatitis B infections
Hepatitis C Virus Antibody Test (anti-HCV)	This blood test detects hepatitis antibodies to the hepatitis C virus

Interpretation Results of Hepatitis A

2-9 weeks from approximate time of exposure	IgM Positive Total Antibody Positive	Early acute HAV infection. Patient possibly infectious.
3-6 months from approximate time of exposure	IgM Positive Total Antibody Positive	Acute HAV infection. No need for vaccine.
Months to years from approximate time of exposure	IgM Positive Total Antibody Positive	Recovery state. Patient immune to HAV. No need for vaccine.

Interpretation Results of Hepatitis B

HBsAg anti-HBc anti-HBs	Negative Negative Negative	Susceptible
HBsAg anti-HBc anti-HBs	Negative Positive Positive	Immune due to natural infection
HBsAg anti-HBc anti-HBs	Negative Negative Positive	Immune due to hepatitis B vaccination
HBsAg anti-HBc IgM anti-HBc anti-HBs	Positive Positive Positive Negative	Acutely infected
HBsAg anti-HBc IgM anti-HBc anti-HBs	Positive Positive Negative Negative	Chronically infected
HBsAg anti-HBc anti-HBs	Negative Positive Negative	Interpretation unclear; four possibilities: 1. Resolved infection (most common) 2. False-positive anti-HBc, thus susceptible 3. "Low-Level" chronic infection 4. Resolving acute infection

Interpretation Results of Hepatitis C

HCV antibody nonreactive	No HCV Antibody detected	Sample can be reported as nonreactive for HCV antibody. No further action required.
HCV antibody nonreactive	Presumptive HCV infection	A repeatedly reactive result is consistent with current HCV infection, or past HCV infection that has resolved, or biologic false positivity for HCV antibody.
HCV antibody reactive HCV RNA detected	Current HCV infection	Provide person tested with appropriate counseling and link person tested to care and treatment.
HCV antibody reactive HCV RNA not detected	No current HCV infection	No further action required in most cases. In certain situations, follow up with HCV RNA testing and appropriate counseling.

Note: Testing for hepatitis C antibodies for babies less than 18 months old is not recommended. The antibodies may be the mother's antibodies and may not produce accurate testing results.

To obtain more information, including the updated version of Chapter 64D-3, Florida Administrative Code, or other important reporting documents and guidelines, please:

1. Visit [FloridaHealth.gov/DiseaseReporting](https://www.floridahealth.gov/DiseaseReporting)
2. Contact the Department's Central Office
3. Contact your county health department



Learn More

[FloridaHealth.gov/DiseaseReporting](https://www.floridahealth.gov/DiseaseReporting)