

Laboratory Reporting Guidelines for Hepatitis A, B, C, D, E, and G

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

Laboratory Results

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

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

Reporting

1. Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A must be reported **immediately** following confirmatory testing or diagnosis.

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

Hepatitis B, C, D, E, and G must be reported **the next business day**.

Diseases warranting notification upon suspicion (termed suspect immediately) must be reported 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Hepatitis Screening

Hepatitis C screening should be done at least once in a lifetime for all adults aged 18.

- Electronic lab reporting does not remove the requirement to report by telephone the 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 Florida law.
- All medical practitioners, 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	Blood test to detect hepatitis A antibodies
Hepatitis B Surface Antigen (HBsAg) Test	Blood test to detect acute hepatitis B infections, and helps to diagnose chronic hepatitis B infections
Hepatitis C Virus Antibody Test (anti-HCV)	Blood test to detect hepatitis antibodies to the hepatitis C virus

Hepatitis A Interpretation Results		
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
Months to years from approximate time of exposure	IgM Positive Total Antibody Positive	Recovery state, patient immune to HAV

Hepatitis B Interpretation Results		
HBsAg	Negative	Susceptible
anti-HBc	Negative	
anti-HBs	Negative	
HBsAg	Negative	Immune due to natural infection
anti-HBc	Positive	
anti-HBs	Positive	
HBsAg	Negative	Immune due to hepatitis B vaccination
anti-HBc	Negative	
anti-HBs	Positive	
HBsAg	Positive	Acutely infected
anti-HBc	Positive	
IgM anti-HBc	Positive	
anti-HBs	Negative	
HBsAg	Positive	Chronically infected
anti-HBc	Positive	
IgM anti-HBc	Negative	
anti-HBs	Negative	
HBsAg	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
anti-HBc	Positive	
anti-HBs	Negative	

Hepatitis C Interpretation Results		
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 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

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.