



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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COMMISSIONER

January 5, 2024

Dear Colleagues:

Thank for your being a valued partner in public health. This letter is to notify you of the annual updates to the list of Reportable Diseases in Tennessee, effective January 1, 2024. The List and Detailed Laboratory Guidance at <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/reportable-diseases.html> summarize important changes for 2024. Notable changes include:

- *Cronobacter* infection (e.g., *Cronobacter sakazakii*) is now nationally notifiable. Cases are reportable by providers and laboratories. Isolates should be sent to the State Public Health Laboratory.
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)-associated deaths among individuals < 18 years old are now reportable by providers only.
- Invasive *Escherichia coli* infections are now reportable by laboratories as part of the Emerging Infections Program surveillance activity.
- Reporting to support current carbon monoxide poisoning surveillance was added for laboratories (i.e., carboxyhemoglobin >12%).
- Reporting antibiotic use (AU) in acute care hospitals through the National Healthcare Safety Network's Antibiotic Use and Resistance Module has been required beginning January 1, 2022. For 2024, the requirement is now updated to reflect final steps in the core plans to require Acute care and critical access hospitals (all hospitals) to report AU. To see the roll out plan for future years, please visit <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/hai.html>.

In addition, updates based on CSTE case definition changes, timing of reporting to facilitate outbreak investigation, and new diagnostic tests are included. Please remember all suspected outbreaks, regardless of etiology, are reportable. Of note, unusual outbreaks or clusters of concern should also be reported to public health for further investigation and possible response. For any reportable disease questions please call your local or regional health department (<https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/localdepartments.html>), or (615)741-7247.

Your role in public health reporting is critical to maintain our core surveillance and response capabilities. We greatly appreciate your partnership as we strive to protect, promote, and improve the health of people in Tennessee.

Sincerely,

Ralph Alvarado, MD, FACP
Commissioner